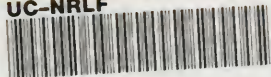


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BATTLE OF WATERLOO,

*Translated from the French, with Notes, and Dedicated,*

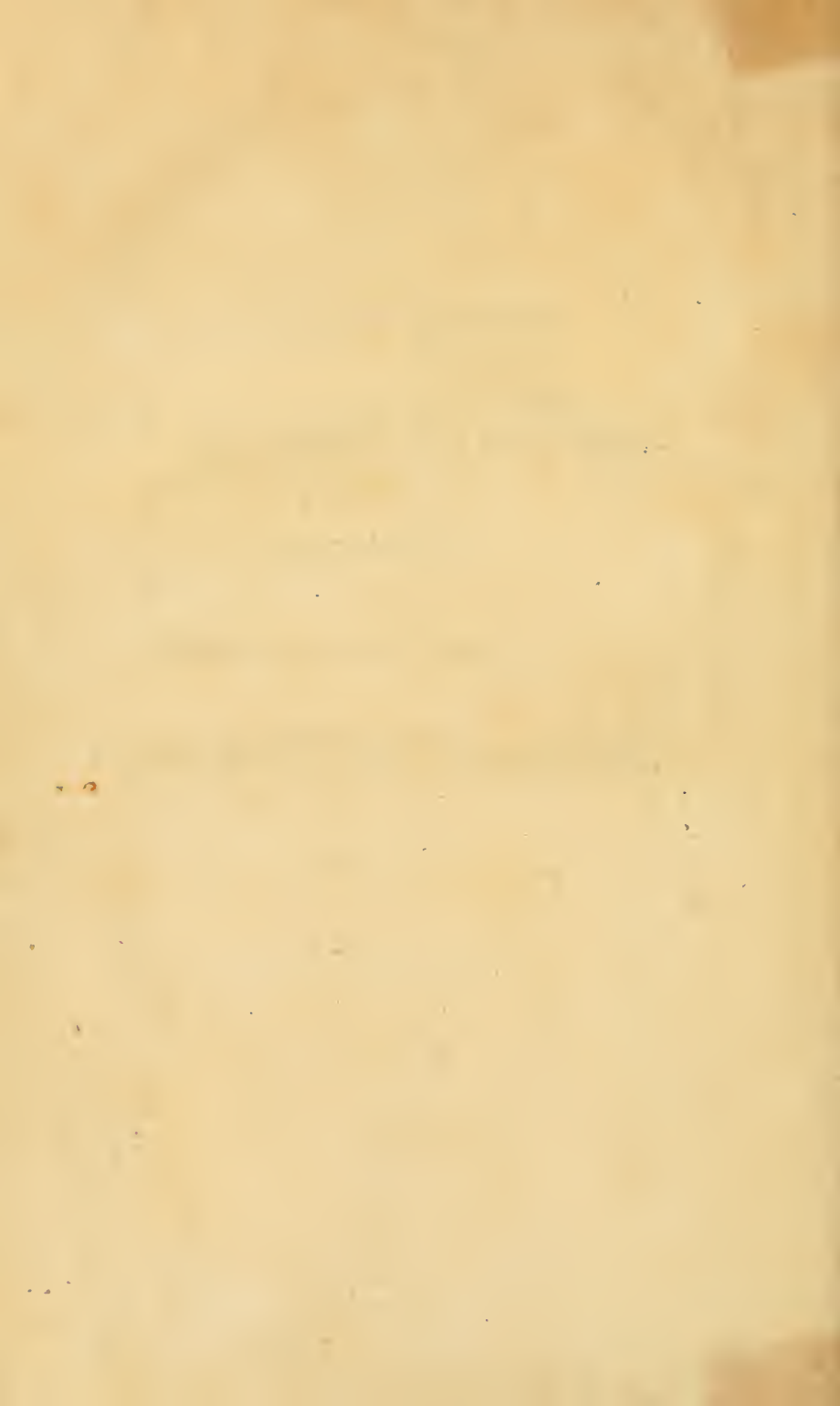
*by Permission, to*

FIELD MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK, AND ALBANY, K. G. &c. &c.

BY CAPTAIN ARTHUR GORE,

20th REGIMENT OF FOOT.



*Thomas Dillon Meane Esq. Col. Galway*

AN  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
BATTLE OF WATERLOO,  
FOUGHT ON THE 18th JUNE, 1815.

*Thos J Meane Meane Esq. Col. Galway*  
BETWEEN THE ANGLO - ALLIED ARMY,  
UNDER THE COMMAND OF  
*Despatch May 17th 1825*  
FIELD-MARSHAL HIS GRACE THE  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON,

SUPPORTED BY A PART OF THE  
PRUSSIAN ARMY COMMANDED BY  
FIELD-MARSHAL PRINCE BUCHER,  
OF WAHLSTADT,  
AND THE FRENCH ARMY,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF  
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE,

INTENDED TO EXPLAIN AND ELUCIDATE THE  
TOPOGRAPHICAL PLAN,  
EXECUTED BY W. B. CRAAN, J. U. D.

Examining Engineer of the Government Surveys of South Brabant.

---

"There is none of you so mean and base  
That bath not noble lustre in your eye;  
I see you stand like grey hounds in the slips,  
Straining upon the start. The game's a-foot,  
Follow your spirit; and upon this charge,  
Cry, *God* for ARTHUR, England, and St. George!"  
SHAKESPEARE.

---

BRUSSELS:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY T. PARKIN,  
NO. 786, RUE VILLA HERMOSA.

1817.

*Corrected as directed in the Errata*



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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

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TO  
**FIELD MARSHAL**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,  
FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK AND ALBANY, K.G. G.C.B.

*Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces,*

&c. &c. &c.

BRUSSELS, 17th MARCH, 1817.

---

SIR,

THE internal economy and discipline of His Majesty's Armies, having arrived at the highest state of perfection under the auspices of Your Royal Highness, the World must acknowledge to how great an extent you have contributed to the splendid and glorious results of the last campaign.

Impressed with the most profound respect towards Your Royal Highness, I have the honor to Dedicate this Narrative to you, being satisfied, that any Work, however humble, which treats of the Battle of WATERLOO, and the immortal Hero under whom it was achieved, will meet the sanction and countenance of Your Royal Highness.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Royal Highness's

Most faithful, devoted and

Obedient Humble Servant,

ARTHUR GORE,

Captain 80th Regt. of Foot:

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

---

THE unparalleled consequences of the Battle of Waterloo, and the avidity which has been evinced throughout Great Britain, to obtain every possible information respecting that memorable event, have induced me to offer to the Public, a Translation of CRAAN'S Account of it, which comprises more genuine intelligence, and gives a clearer and more correct idea of the occurrences of that important epoch, than any other hitherto published.

The very great and extraordinary merits which the Topographical Plan accompanying this Work has been generally allowed to possess, and the high and flattering encomiums with which it has been honoured by several of the first and most exalted Personages in Great Britain and in Europe, supersedes, on my part, the necessity of comment—however, I

will venture to observe, that to those who had either Relatives or Friends upon the Field, it will prove peculiarly interesting as it distinctly points out the position where each Regiment was respectively engaged.

I have also undertaken this Narrative, which I respectfully submit to the Public, not only from the motives already stated, but from a personal esteem for the Author, and a desire <sup>to be in Germany</sup> to give publicity to every circumstance connected with that glorious campaign, which, after so many years of bloodshed, has given Peace and Tranquility to Europe !

A G.

AN  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
**BATTLE OF WATERLOO.**

---

INDICATIONS AND REFERENCES EXPLANATORY OF  
THE PLAN.

In order to avoid repetition, the indications alphabetically arranged, point out at once the position and formation of the respective corps, a particular description of which, the nature of this Work will not admit. In referring to the plan, it will be necessary to pay considerable attention to the distinctive marks, characterised by the Roman and Italic Alphabets, used in the reference, and also to regard particularly the dotted lines, which lead from position to position.

THE ANGLO-ALLIED ARMY WAS UNDER  
THE COMMAND OF HIS GRACE THE  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

The First Corps of the Army, was commanded by  
His Royal Highness, General the Prince of ORANGE,  
and occupied the centre of the position of the Allied  
Army.

---

THE TROOPS OF THE CENTRE IN POSI-  
TION, BETWEEN THE ROADS OF CHAR-  
LEROI AND NIVELLES.

---

(A) The first division, British Foot Guards, was  
commanded by Major Gen. Sir George Cooke, and  
occupied the right front of the centre.

(a) The first brigade was commanded by Major  
General Maitland, and consisted of the second and

third battalions of the First Regiment of Foot Guards. This brigade suffered considerably on the sixteenth of June, in the battle of Quatre-Bras.

(b) The second brigade was commanded by Major General Sir J. Byng, and consisted of the second battalions of the Coldstream Regiment, and of the third Regiment of Foot Guards. Seven companies of the Coldstream occupied the chateau and gardens of Gormont; the four light companies of the division were advanced in the wood and orchards, (*see h and i*). A brigade of Royal British Artillery, under the command of Captain Sandham, and a brigade of the King's German Horse Artillery, commanded by Major Kuhlman, were attached to this division; also, a second British brigade, under the command of Captain Sinclair.

(B) The third division was commanded by Lieut. General Count Alten, and formed the left face of the centre. This division was composed of



(c) The second brigade, of the King's German Legion, under the command of Col. Ompteda, consisting of the first and second battalions of Light Infantry, and the fifth and eighth battalions of the line. The second battalion of Light Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Baring, occupied the farm of la Haie-Sainte, which it defended with great bravery.

(d) The first Hanoverian brigade, commanded by Major-General Count Kilmansegge, consisted of the field battalions of Lunenberg, first battalion of the Duke of York, and the battalions of Grubenhaugen, Verden, Bremen, and the Light Infantry of Sporken.

(e) The fifth British brigade, which suffered considerably on the 16th of June at Quatre Bras, was commanded by Major-General Sir Colin Halkett, and composed of the second battalions of the thirtieth, sixty-ninth, and seventy-third regiments, and the thirty-third regiment. This division, and the first division of

Guards, were much exposed to the charges of the French cavalry, which they severally repulsed; a British brigade of guns, under the command of Major Lloyd, and a brigade of King's German Horse Artillery, under the command of Captain Cleeve, were attached to this division.

(f) The Corps of the Duke of Brunswick commanded by Major-Gen. Olferman, consisted of a brigade of Light Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel de Butler, a brigade of Infantry of the Line, under the command of Major de Munckausen, a regiment of Hussars *de la mort*, and a squadron of lancers. Two battalions were placed in the centre of the British guards, having in their front two brigades of Artillery, under the command of Major de Lubeck. A battalion under the command of Major de Bulow, was detached in the wood of Gomont, where the combat was supported on both sides with great fury.

(g) Three battalions of the first regiment of the contingent of Nassau-Usingen, under the command of General Kruse. The Prince of Orange was wounded in leading on this regiment to the charge, *against the moyenne garde*. See (OR).

(h) Three companies of the Coldstream regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, were posted in the chateau, and garden <sup>of</sup> Gomont, the walls of which were loop-holed. This detachment was reinforced by four companies of the same regiment, commanded by Colonel Woodford. Notwithstanding the chateau was in flames, and attacked on all sides, it was bravely and successfully defended during the day.

(i) The wood and orchards of Gomont were defended by the four light companies of the first division of Guards, the first battalion of the second regiment of Nassau, in the service of the Netherlands, and a battalion of the Duchy of Brunswick, under the command

of Major de Bulow. This part of Gomont was occupied, after two hours hard fighting, by the division of Jerome Napoleon.

(j) A French battery which was ordered to advance and raze the wall of the garden of Gomont, but was dislodged.

(k) The first brigade of heavy cavalry, was commanded by Major-General Lord E. Somerset, and composed of the first and second regiments of Life Guards, the first regiment of Dragoon Guards, and the Horse Guards (Blue). This brigade charged the cuirassiers repeatedly, and repulsed them at the foot of the hill (B) on the chaussée.

(l) The third brigade of light cavalry was commanded by Major-General Sir William Dornberg, and composed of the first and second regiment of

dragoons of the King's German Legion, and the twenty-third British light dragoons.

(m) The seventh brigade of light cavalry, was commanded by Colonel F. Arendschild, and composed of the third regiment of Hussars, King's German Legion, and the thirteenth British light dragoons.

(n) The fifth brigade of light cavalry, was commanded by Major-General Sir C. Grant, and composed of the seventh and fifteenth British hussars.

(o) The division of cavalry of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant General Baron Colaert, consisted of three brigades, and repulsed the enemy in several charges.

(p) A brigade of heavy cavalry, commanded by Major-General Trip, consisting of the first and third re-

giments Dutch, and the second Carabiniers (Belgian.)

(q) The second brigade of light cavalry, under the command of Major-General Ghigny, was composed of the fourth Dutch light dragoons, and the eighth regiment of Belgian hussars—a brigade of light artillery, of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Captain Petter, was attached to this division; it was posted nearly in front of the first regiment of Nassau, (g).

(r) The First brigade of light cavalry, under the command of Major-General Van Merle, consisted of the sixth regiment of Dutch hussars, and the fifth Belgian light dragoons.



## *Force* ARTILLERY ATTACHED.

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Besides the artillery attached to each division, there were also attached to the British cavalry, the brigades of Major Bull, Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Gardner, Major Ramsay, and Captain Mercer, also a rocket brigade, commanded by Major Whinyates.

Three brigades of artillery were in reserve, under the command of Sir Hew D. Ross, Major Bean, and Captain Sinclair.

These brigades occupied successively the positions, of those dismounted in the centre, and upon the left.

The different batteries of the centre, were placed irregularly, according to the nature, and undulation of the ground.



## EXTREME RIGHT OF THE ANGLO-ALLIED ARMY AT BRAINE-LA-LEUD.

THE SECOND CORPS OF THE ARMY, FORMING THE RIGHT WING, COMMANDED BY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LORD HILL.

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(C) The plateau, where the second British division was placed *en potence*, under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton : it was composed as follows :

(s) The third British brigade under the command of Major-General Adams, consisted of the first battalions of the fifty-second, and seventy-first regiments of the line and nine companies of the ninety-fifth regiment, or rifle corps. (Now called rifle brigade.)

(t) The first brigade of the King's German Legion, commanded by Colonel Duplat, was composed

of the first, second, third, and fourth battalions of the line of the King's German Legion.

(u) The third Hanoverian brigade, commanded by Colonel Halkett, consisted of the second and third battalions of the Duke of York, and the battalions of militia Saltzgitter, and Bremervorde; a brigade of Royal British Artillery, commanded by Captain Bolton, and a brigade of King's German Horse Artillery, under the command of Major Symper, were attached to the second division.

(v) The fourth British brigade, under the command of Colonel Mitchell, belonging to the fourth division, composed of the third battalion of the fourteenth regiment, and the first battalions of the twenty-third, and fifty-first regiments of the line. A brigade of Hanoverian Artillery, commanded by Captain de Retberg, was attached to the second division, which about three o'clock in the afternoon, took

up a new alignment on the right of the centre, as it did not appear necessary to maintain longer that position.

(D) The defence of Braine-la-Leud was entrusted to the third division of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant-General Baron Chassé.—The first brigade, under the command of Colonel Detmers, composed of the thirty-fifth battalion of Belgian light infantry, the second battalion of the Dutch line, and the fourth, sixth, seventeenth, and nineteenth battalions of Dutch Militia, occupied that position; the seventeenth battalion, a little in advance, kept open the communication with the second British division, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton.

(E) The second brigade, commanded by Major-General D'Aubremé, was composed of the thirty-sixth battalion of light infantry, and the third batta-

lion of the Belgian line, the twelfth and thirteenth battalions of the line, and the third and tenth battalions of Dutch Militia.—These troops occupied a commanding position upon an height at the farm of Vieux Foriez.—A brigade of foot Artillery, under the command of Captain Lux and a light brigade, commanded by Major Van der Smissen, were attached to this division.

(w) Between the hours of two and three o'clock in the afternoon, the third division advanced towards the centre; the second brigade by Merbe-Braine; the first brigade was ordered to occupy the original position of the second British division.

Four battalions moved forward in square. The third division took up a second position along the chaussée of Nivelles, in rear of the right wing of the army.

## DETACHED DIVISIONS, FORMING THE LEFT WING.

THE EXTREME LEFT OF THE ANGLO-ALLIED ARMY  
ABOVE LA HAYE.

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(F) A part of the second division of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, under the orders of Lieutenant-General Baron de Perponcher, and the second brigade, commanded by the Prince of Saxe-Weymar, composed of the first and second battalions of the regiment of Orange Nassau, with the second and third battalions of the second regiment of Nassau Usingen, occupied the positions at the extreme left, of Papelotte, Smohain, and la Haye. The first battalion of the second regiment before mentioned, was posted at Gomont, (see i.)

(x) The first brigade, commanded by Major-General Count de Byland of the same division, consisted of the seventh battalion of the Belgian line, the twenty-seventh regiment of light infantry, the fifth, seventh, and eighth battalions of Dutch Militia. The fifth battalion of Militia placed in reserve, suffered considerably on the sixteenth of June at Quatre-Bras. A brigade of guns, under the command of Captain Byleveld, was attached to the division.

(G) The fifth British division was under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton.— a brigade of Royal British Artillery, commanded by Major Rogers, and a brigade of Hanoverian Artillery, under the command of Captain Braun, were attached to this division.

(y) The fifth Hanoverian brigade, consisted of the four battalions of Militia of Hameln, Grifforn,




Hildesheim, and Peine, under the command of Col. Vincke.

(z) The ninth brigade (Scotch) was under the command of Major-General Sir Dennis Pack, and consisted of the third battalion of the first regiment of Royal Scotch, the first battalions of the forty-second, and ninety-second Highlanders, and the second battalion of the forty-fourth regiment. This brigade charged with the bayonet the French column T. (see *m*).

(aa) The eighth British brigade, commanded by Major-General Sir James Kempt, consisted of the first battalions of the twenty-eighth and thirty-second regiments, and the first battalion of the seventy-ninth regiment of Highlanders, the first battalion of the ninety-fifth, (rifle corps) and one company of the same



regiment, (see *m*). This brigade and the ninth suffered considerably at Quatre Bras.

 (bb) Tenth British brigade, commanded by Major-General Sir J. Lambert, (belonging to the sixth division) composed of the first battalions of the fourth, twenty-seventh, and fortieth regiments of the line. This brigade was particularly charged in retaking the farm of La Haie-Sainte.

(cc) The second brigade of heavy cavalry, commanded by Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, consisted of the first regiment of Royal Dragoons, second regiment, North British Dragoons, (or Scotch Grey's) and the sixth, or Inniskilling Dragoons. This brigade made a desperate charge upon the French Artillery, (see *m. o.*)

(dd) The fourth brigade of light cavalry, under

the command of Major-General Sir J. Vandeleur, composed of the eleventh, twelfth, and sixteenth regiments of British light dragoons, charged ~~T. 112~~ *112*

(ee) The sixth brigade of light cavalry, commanded by Major-General Sir Hussey Vivian, was composed of the first regiment of Hussars, King's German Legion, and the tenth and eighteenth-regiments of British Hussars. In the afternoon, the fourth, and sixth British brigades, moved to the right of the centre, (see *y.*)

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY, UNDER THE  
COMMAND OF HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE  
BLUCHER, DEBOUCHING BY LASNE,  
AND O'HAIN.

---

(II) The first corps of the Army, under the command of General Von Ziethen, arrived at eight o'clock in the evening, with four brigades of infantry, each consisting of three regiments; the first brigade under the command of General Steinmetz, the second brigade under General Pirch (Junior); the third brigade under General Jagow; the fourth brigade under General Henkel, and a corps of cavalry, composed of six regiments, under General Von Roeder. This corps had suffered considerably on the fifteenth and sixteenth of June at Ligny.

(ff) At the moment of the general advance of the Allied Army, the advanced guard of the first corps, retook Smohain and Papelotte, in concert with the troops of Nassau, when they established a battery against La <sup>Haze</sup> ~~Ro~~ near (ff).

(gg) The three other brigades advanced at the same time upon La Belle Alliance.

(hh) The cavalry under the command of General Von Roeder pursued the French, already in full retreat.

(I) The arrival of the fourth corps, under the command of Lieutenant General Von Bulow. The sixteenth brigade, under Colonel Hiller; the fifteenth brigade, under General Von Losthin; the thirteenth brigade, under Lieutenant General Von Hacke, and the fourteenth brigade under Major-General Von

Ryssel.—A numerous artillery, and a corps of heavy cavalry, with that of the second corps, forming together fourteen regiments, was commanded by His Royal Highness, Prince William of Prussia.

**J** The fifteenth and sixteenth brigades arrived at four o'clock, with a corps of cavalry, in a covered position, in the wood of Paris, near Frichermont; they immediately debouched, and advanced upon Plancenois.—The Prince Blucher had before advanced at three o'clock in the afternoon to reconnoitre the field of battle with two regiments of dragoons, which were engaged with the French cavalry, in rear of Frichermont.

(K) General Von Bulow, without awaiting his reinforcements, made every necessary arrangement to attack Plancenois.

(L) The two other brigades of the fourth corps having successively arrived with a part of the second corps, commanded by General Perch (Senior), formed in the plain. Some troops arrived by the Abbey of d'Aywiers. (kk).

ii ~~(kk)~~ The cavalry, supported by the artillery, attacked the right of the first French corps, and was engaged with the cavalry (tt). The French turned some guns against them, (N) to which they were considerably exposed.

**M** ~~(N)~~ The remainder of the fourth corps, with a part of the second, attacked Plancenois, defended in front, by the sixth French corps.—About six o'clock in the evening, the engagement became general, and during that momentous crisis, the troops on both sides fought with increased and unexampled fury.

(11) This column bravely resisted the different attacks made upon it, and turned the village at night.

(mm) Attack of the village in front, which was taken and retaken three times. This position was obstinately disputed.



THE  
FRENCH ARMY,  
COMMANDED BY NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

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THE RIGHT WING OF THE FRENCH ARMY RESTING  
UPON SMOHAIN.

N 1. N 2. N 3. Three different positions on the side of the chaussée of Charleroi and Brussels, which Napoleon occupied successively during the battle, at the hours of ten o'clock in the morning, and at three and seven in the afternoon.

(N) Extreme right of the first corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Count d'Erlon, consisting of four divisions of infantry, and one division of cavalry (tt) supported by eighty pieces of cannon twelve pounders.

(nn) The fourth division of the first corps was commanded by Lieutenant-General Durutte, and composed of four regiments, the twenty-ninth, eighty-fifth, ninety-fifth of the line, and a regiment of light infantry. It attacked and retook several times, the farm of Papelotte, defended by the troops of Nassau, (F) which was ultimately destroyed by fire. This division was attacked at night, in flank, by the Prussians.

(oo) The third division, commanded by Lieutenant-General Marcognet, was composed of four regiments, the twenty-fifth, forty-fifth, one hundred and fifth of the line, and a regiment of light infantry. It was at the head of the strong column (T) which attacked the left wing of the Allied Army.

(pp) The second division consisted of four regiments, the seventeenth, nineteenth, fifty-first of the line, and the thirteenth regiment of light infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-General ———

This division was ordered to carry La Haie-Sainte, where it met with great opposition. The nineteenth regiment was almost entirely destroyed.

(qq) The first division, consisting of four regiments of the line, and a regiment of light infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-General ——— supported the second division, in the attack upon La Haie-Sainte, which it afterwards carried with considerable loss.

(rr) The first division of Cuirassiers, under the command of General Delort, was composed of two brigades. The first brigade consisted of the fifth, and tenth regiments, under Brigadier General Calmer; the second, of the sixth and nineteenth regiments, under General ———

(ss) A division of Cuirassiers, under the command

of General Vathier de St.-Alphense.—The first brigade consisted of the first and second regiments, under General Dubois; the second, of the fourth, and twelfth regiments, under General Travère.

The third corps of cavalry, composed of two divisions, under the command of Lieutenant-General Milhaud, formed, after the fall of La Haie-Sainte, in the hollow (U), on one side of the farm.

(tt) A division of light cavalry, under the command of General Jacquenot, consisting of the third and fourth regiments of Lancers, the third regiment of light dragoons, and the seventh regiment of hussars. It was attached to the first corps of infantry, and, during its retreat, was repeatedly charged and much harrassed by the Prussian cavalry.

LEFT WING OF THE FRENCH ARMY,  
COVERED BY THE WOOD OF GOMONT.

(O) The extreme left of the second corps, under the command of Lieutenant-General Count Reille, was composed of four divisions of infantry, and one division of cavalry (zz), supported by upwards of sixty pieces of cannon twelve pounders. The first division of infantry, under the command of Jerome Napoleon, occupied this position, and consisted of four regiments, the first, second, and third of the line, and the first of light infantry, supported by the second division (uu). The first attack was made on the wood and chateau of Gomont, at half-past eleven o'clock. (see h.)

(uu) The second division, commanded by Lieuten-

ant-General Bachelu, consisted of four regiments; the twelfth light infantry, seventy-second, one hundred and eighth, and — regiments of the line. (see O).

(vv) The third division was commanded by Lieutenant-General Foy, and composed of four regiments of the line, and one of light infantry; a part of this division moved upon Gomont, (i) the remainder was employed against La Haie-Sainte.

(ww) The fourth division, under the command of Lieutenant-General Girard, consisted of four regiments, the fourth light infantry, twelfth, and two regiments of the line. This division having suffered considerably at the battle of Ligny, was not much exposed on the eighteenth of June.

(xx) A division of heavy cavalry, under the com-



mand of Lieutenant-General l'Heretier, composed of four regiments, the eighth and eleventh of cuirassiers, and the second and seventh dragoons.

(yy) A division of heavy cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-General Roussel d'Urbal, composed of four regiments, the first and second carabiniers, and the second and third of cuirassiers. These two divisions formed the fourth corps of cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-General Kellerman, and advanced towards the centre of the Allied Army (♥). *It*

(zz) A division of light cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-General Piré, attached to the second corps of infantry, composed of four regiments, the first and sixth light dragoons, and the fifth and sixth regiments of lancers. This divi-

sion posted during the day in observation at Mon Plaisir, moved in the afternoon towards Plancenois in order to cover, in concert with the old guard, the retreat of the army.

## THE FRENCH RESERVE, STATIONED BETWEEN PLANCENOIS AND MON- PLAISIR.

(P) The sixth corps, composed of two divisions, with thirty pieces of Artillery—twelve pounders, under the command of Lieutenant-General, the Count Lobau, was placed in reserve. The first division, under the command of General Baron Simmer, consisted of the fifth, eleventh, twenty-seventh, and eighty-fourth regiments of the line; the second division, commanded by General Baron Jeannin, was composed of the fifth light infantry, the tenth, and one hundred and seventh regiments of the line.

The third division of the sixth corps, commanded

by General Baron Teste, was detached at Wavre, to support the third corps, under General Vandamme.

(æ) A division of cavalry, composed of the fourth, eleventh, and twelfth regiments of light dragoons, under the command of General d'Aumont, was attached to the sixth corps.

(æ) The sixth corps occupied in the defence of Plancenois, supported by the Young Guard on the right.

(Q) The Young Guard, was under the command of General Dubesme: the division, consisting of four regiments, was commanded by General Barrois. The first brigade, commanded by General Chartron, was composed of the first regiment of tirailleurs, and the first of voltigeurs; the second brigade, commanded by General Mellinet, chief of the staff, consisted of the

third regiment of tirailleurs, and the third of voltigeurs.

(a) The Young Guard, supporting the right of the sixth corps, in danger of being outflanked by the Prussians.

(b) The farm of Cailliou, Head Quarters of Napoleon, where his baggage remained protected by the second battalion of the first regiment of chasseurs of the Old Guard, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel During. The park of artillery of the guard, twelve pounders, was posted near the farm of Cailliou, in reserve.

(R) The Old foot Guards, under the command of General Drouot; (Major-General of the Staff of the Guards) advanced towards La Belle Alliance, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

(c) The grenadiers of the Old Guard, were under the orders of Lieutenant-General Friant, and composed of the first, second, third, and fourth regiments. The division was commanded by General Petit.

(d) The chasseurs of the Old Guard were under the orders of Lieutenant-General Morand, and composed of the first, second, third, and fourth regiments. General Michel commanded the division. The artillery of the Guard, under the command of General Doguerau, was employed at Plancenois.

(e) The horse grenadiers of the Guard, were under the command of Lieutenant-General Guyot, also the dragoons of the Guard, under Colonel Hofmeyer, General Letort having fallen on the sixteenth.

(f) The Lancers of the Guard were under the command of General Colbert, and the light cavalry,




under General Lefebvre-Desnouettes, advanced towards the centre of the Allied Army, upon which they made numerous charges.

(g) A battery of reserve of the Guard—twelve pounders, which fired in the afternoon over the village of Plancenois, to check the advance of the Prussians.

THE SECOND POSITIONS, PRINCIPAL ATTACKS AND  
DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS.

(S) Second position of the foot guards, which formed in squares, at the approach of the Prussians.

(h) Two battalions of the old guard, which were ordered from the Chaussée (S) to support the sixth corps, and the young guard at Plancenois.

(i) The light artillery of the guard, under the command of General Buchand; with two other batteries of the guard, replaced that of the sixth corps, ordered to the right of the first corps (N) to supply the place of the guns dismounted by Major-General Ponsonby (see )

(k) The old guard, having formed two squares, 1 and 2, at nine o'clock at night, made several ineffectual efforts to cover the retreat and restrain the fugitives. Napoleon remained a short time with the square (2).

The square (1) being pressed by the retreating army and charged by a British regiment of cavalry, was broken and nearly destroyed.

(l) The squares of the sixth corps, of the young guard, and of two battalions of the old guard, which had been sent to the support of the former at Plancenois, in retreat.

(T) A heavy column of infantry, composed of part of the second and third division of the first corps, moved forward at two o'clock in the afternoon, to attack the left wing of the Allies, favoured by a deep

ravine, which protected it from the fire of the artillery.

(m) The head of the column (T) having succeeded in gaining the heights, drove back the brigade to which it was opposed but being attacked on the flank, by a part of the fifth division, under Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton, and charged by a brigade of British Dragoons, under the command of Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, it was repulsed with considerable loss.

(n) The column (T) in retreat, charged by the British Dragoons, supported by a brigade (q) of the Netherlands, under Major-General Ghigny.

(o) The British brigade of Dragoons, which advanced from the farm of La Haie-Sainte, (u) under Sir William Ponsonby, and charged the batteries, on the right of the first French corps.

(p) This brigade after the brilliant charge it made, was repulsed by the cuirassiers, under General Milhaud, and the fourth regiment of lancers.

(q) After an obstinate resistance, La Haie-Sainte was taken at three o'clock, by a part of the first and second divisions of infantry, which enabled the cuirassiers to form, *en masse*, in the hollow. (U).

(U) The hollow before mentioned, where the cuirassiers and other cavalry formed in great number, before and after the various charges made upon the squares of the centre, posted in echelon, on the heights of Mont St. Jean.

(r) The horse grenadiers and dragoons of the guard, which advanced from the low grounds near Rossomme, (e) and repeatedly charged (a) and (b).

(s) The lancers of the guard, having advanced from the plateau above Plancenois (f) at five o'clock, in the afternoon, by different routes, made several desperate charges upon (a c d)

(t) A division of cuirassiers and carabiniers, which advanced from the rear of Gomont (<sup>yy</sup>~~yy~~). It was at the barrier of that chateau, where Marshal Ney, on foot, (having had his horse shot under him) encouraged this division to make one more effort.

(u) The squares of the second division, under the command of General Clinton, moving at two o'clock from the plateau above Merbe-Braine (C) to support the right wing of the centre.

(V) Four regiments of the third and fourth chasseurs, and the third and fourth of the grenadiers of the French guard, (called the middle or *moyenne* <sup>garde</sup>~~garde~~ <sub>grande</sub>) advanced in column, animated by Na-



pooleon, to attack the centre of the Allies, at half-past seven o'clock.

(v) These regiments, led on by Marshal Ney, gained the heights, between La Haie-Sainte and Gomet, and deployed in front of the Allied troops, evincing a coolness and intrepidity, almost unequalled.

(w) The first brigade, (D) commanded by Colonel Detmers, forming part of the third division of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant-General Chassé, arrived at this critical moment, with six battalions, to the support of the brave troops engaged during the day. A light brigade of artillery, commanded by Major Van-der-Smissen, also arrived from Braine-la-Leud to support these troops, who succeeded in repulsing the guard, equally unsuccessful at all points, in its attacks upon the right wing of the centre.

(x) A brigade of British artillery, attached to the second British division, commanded by the gallant Captain Napier, (who received nine wounds) with the brigade (w) made dreadful havoc in the French guards.

(y) Two brigades of light cavalry, under Major-Generals Vandeleur and Vivian, having arrived from the left wing of the Army, charged the guard upon its left flank, supported by the brigades (n m l) at the same moment that Lord Wellington advanced with the whole of the line, which decided the victory.

(z) The last French squares, which, after a vain and ineffectual resistance, were broken, and ultimately became a part of the general and confused mass.

(Or) The place where the Prince of Orange was wounded at half-past seven o'clock in the afternoon,

charging at the head of the first regiment of Nassau-Usingen, the grenadiers of the middle guard.

His Royal Highness was shot through the left shoulder, almost at the same moment that the victory was obtained..



*THE Author begs leave to return his most grateful acknowledgments to the Officers of the different Armies; who have so generously enabled him to authenticate every part of this Narrative by official information; and, at the same time to observe, that if in the course of the general detail, he has passed over in silence, any peculiar circumstance connected with individuals: he assures them, it has proceeded from want of information, and not from neglect, or an unwillingness, on his part, to give publicity to any matter, either personal or interesting, which relates, to his subject.*



# INTRODUCTION,

BY

*THE TRANSLATOR.*

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As the Reader may be unacquainted with the military operations previous to the Battle of Waterloo, the following Sketch will afford him some knowledge of the circumstances which led to that



event; and enable him to trace the movements of the French Army from its Cantonments in the vicinity of Beaumont, to the passage of the Sambre, at Marchienne au Pont, by Napoleon Buonaparte in person, about four o'clock in the morning, on the fifteenth of June 1815, and at Lobbes and Thuin to the left, by a part of the second corps, under the orders of General Reille, which succeeded in forcing the advanced Posts of the Prussians to retire on Fontaine L'Evêque and Charleroi, from whence they were dislodged.

Napoleon having obtained possession of this important position, ordered Marshal Ney to advance with the first and second corps of the army, under Generals d'Erlon and Reille, supported by four divisions of cavalry, under Lieutenant-Generals Pine, Desnouettes, V. Imy and Colbert, and a formidable artillery on <sup>Gobellies</sup> ~~Gobellies~~, at the same time that a corps

of observation was pushed forward to Fleurus, where Marshal Blucher was concentrating his forces.

Marshal Ney having entered <sup>*Gosselies*</sup> ~~Gosselies~~, pursued his route towards Brussels, and attacked, at six o'clock in the afternoon, a battalion of Orange-Nassau, under the Prince of Saxe-Weymar, supported by a brigade of Light Artillery, which occupied the village of Frasne, and obliged these troops to fall back on a part of the second division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant-General de Perponcher, at Quatre Bras (or the cross roads), which had advanced from Nivelles, on hearing of the approach of the French, and succeeded in holding that position until the arrival of the troops on the following morning.

The occupation of Quatre Bras was most important, as the possession of it kept open a communication, by the Namur road, with Marshal Blucher's army,

moving into position on the heights, in rear of Sombresse, Ligny and St. Amand, which villages, were occupied by the advanced posts of the Prussians.

Napoleon having moved from Charleroi on the morning of the 16th formed his army in order of battle on the plains of Fleurus; extending from that town beyond the village of Ligny, having his centre upon an hillock, called the Tomb, in front of that of the Prussian position. The greater proportion of his cavalry was posted in rear of the right wing, under cover of an elevated ground, and the artillery was placed along the line in the most commanding and advantageous positions. The attack commenced about two o'clock in the day, when the right wing of the Prussian army, after an obstinate resistance of some hours, was obliged to fall back, being pressed in front by the division under General Lefol, outflanked by the fourth corps under Lieutenant-General Girard, at St. Amand (1), and also threatened in

the rear by the first corps, under Count d'Erlon, which Napoleon had ordered from Frasne by a road leading directly to that village. This advantage obtained by the enemy, compelled Marshal Blucher to form his right wing *en potence* (2) upon the centre which rested on the mill of Bussy, (3) in order to cover the village of Bry to his rear. Napoleon, with his usual promptitude, availing himself of the successes he had obtained over the right of the Prussian line, ordered his guards, supported by the cavalry and artillery of the left, to advance, and the fourth corps to support the attack on the Prussian right of the village of Ligny, where the most strenuous exertions were made to defeat his intentions.

Finding it impracticable to possess himself of this position, without a very considerable sacrifice of lives, owing to the skill and bravery with which it was defended, he changed his mode of attack, and directed a strong column to be formed, of a part of the right

wing of his army, and to advance under cover of a hollow road to the left of the village. This movement, favored by a destructive fire from the <sup>Howitzer</sup> ~~monar~~

batteries at the tomb, which enveloped the Castle,

~~the~~ Farm ~~de la Cour~~, and the right of the village in flames, compelled the Prussians to retire, when this most important post fell into the hands of the enemy. This success enabled him to employ a considerable part of his forces against the Prussian centre, and the heights being charged by the guards, at the same time that an attack was made on the left by a heavy column of infantry, supported by the Cuirassiers, and a formidable artillery, the position was carried and the Prussian army obliged to fall back on the village of Bry.

Marshal Blucher finding it impossible to oppose, in such open ground, an enemy numerically superior to him, and likewise seeing no prospect of the arrival of the fourth corps, under Lieutenant

General Von Bulow, advancing by Gembloux, withdrew his troops from Bry, which the French occupied at ten o'clock at night, and reformed them on a plateau (4) running nearly parallel with his former position, between that village and Marbais. Having remained a short time to allow his army some rest after the extreme fatigue of the day, he retreated through the villages of Tilly and Bruviere on Wavre, where he was joined by the fourth corps.

The troops which had supported, during the day, the batteries of Sombreffe and Tongrenelle, employed with considerable effect against the right of the French army, continued to occupy their positions until two o'clock the following morning, when they retrograded by Gembloux on Wavre, followed a short time afterwards, by the corps of Marshal Grouchy and Vandamme.

At the same time that Napoleon was engaged

with the Prussian army at Ligny, Marshal Ney attacked the Allies at Quatre-Bras, defended by the fifth British division, under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Picton, the second division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under Lieutenant General Baron de Perponcher, and the troops of Brunswick, under their illustrious Duke, supported by the first division of the British guards, commanded by Major General Sir George Cooke, which succeeded in driving the enemy from the wood of Bossu, while the third British division, under Lieutenant General Count Alten, charged his centre upon the plain. After an obstinate contest of seven hours, the French were forced to give way, and the Allies remained in possession of the field. During that period, the troops were not only exposed to a most galling and destructive fire of artillery; but to the repeated charges of a numerous cavalry, supported by heavy columns of infantry, whose va-



rious attacks were generally repulsed, notwithstanding the great superiority of their numbers.

After many fruitless efforts to carry this position, Marshal Ney ordered the first division to advance to his support from Frasne ; but to his great surprise and mortification, discovered that it had been withdrawn by Napoleon.

Had not the Duke of Wellington succeeded in holding Quatre Bras, Marshal Ney would most undoubtedly have profited by the occasion, and pushed on to Brussels. This movement would have interposed the French army between the Allies and the Prussians, and prevented all direct communication ; besides, the road from Sombreffe to Quatre-Bras was perfectly open, nothing now existing, to prevent Napoleon from availing himself of the advantages which he had obtained.

The very extended Cantonments of the Allied Army on the fifteenth of June, have naturally led to many observations from persons unacquainted with the cause ; but, by referring to the map of the Netherlands, it will be seen, that so vulnerable a frontier could not be defended at all points ; on which account the Duke of Wellington was obliged to await the commencement of hostilities, before he could attempt to concentrate his troops, it being utterly impossible for him to anticipate at what point the first attack might be made.

Such a step would have only favoured the designs of the enemy, and enabled him to penetrate still farther into the country ; moreover, the difficulty of obtaining forage and provisions, for so large an army, at any one point, must be apparent to all.

## INTRODUCTION.

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On the sixteenth of June, the Allied Army, under the command of Field Marshal his Grace the Duke of WELLINGTON, gloriously maintained the important position of Quatre-Bras, after a most sanguinary and well disputed contest.

This advantage, fully equivalent to a victory, contributed in no small degree to the unparalleled successes of the eighteenth of June.

From the obstinate defence of this important point

of communication, the different corps composing the Army, had time to arrive successively from their distant cantonments, at the respective points of concentration, at the same time the troops which had been engaged at Quatre-Bras, by a retrograde movement reinforced them, a manœuvre which the Field Marshal thought prudent, in consequence of the defeat of the Prussian Army at Ligny.

Nothing could exceed the coolness and intrepidity of the troops engaged at Quatre-Bras, where a small body of men, assembled in haste, and exposed for a considerable time, without either Artillery or Cavalry displayed the most surprising bravery, in resisting the impetuous attacks of a superior Army, perfectly organised, and supported by every species of force, in which the Allies were deficient.

It was there that the firmness and abilities of a

great General were required to extricate himself from so perilous and critical a situation.

It was there, surrounded by many experienced Generals, that, the Young Hero, the Hereditary Prince, shone so conspicuously, adding to the inherent valor of the House of Orange, the talents of a Veteran—talents matured in the war of the Peninsula, under that great Captain, the immortal WELLINGTON.

The illustrious and valiant Duke of Brunswick, terminated his glorious career, with many brave men, in this obstinate combat.

The reverses sustained by the Prussian Army on the sixteenth of June, on the heights of Ligny, determined Marshal Blucher to concentrate his troops at Wavre, where he would be reinforced by the fourth corps, under the command of Lieutenant-General

Count Bulow, which had not been previously engaged.

This retrograde movement obliged the Duke of Wellington, notwithstanding his success at Quatre-Bras (and without being compelled by the enemy) to make, as before observed, a corresponding manœuvre, and retire on Waterloo, where the ground offered a position, which this modern Fabius (5) considered well adapted for the defence of Brussels, upon this side.

That part of the Army which had been engaged at Quatre-Bras, having bivouaced the night of the sixteenth, in advance of the Field of battle, His Grace made the necessary dispositions to support it, and renew the conflict on the morning of the seventeenth, but seeing no inclination on the part of the enemy to attack him, he ordered the army to retire at mid-day by Genappe (6), with the intention of co-operating with

Marshal Blücher, which change of position he effected in the most admirable order, notwithstanding, his rear guard was closely pressed, and much harassed by the French cavalry, whose various charges were bravely and vigorously repulsed by the British dragoons and Life Guards. (7)

About four o'clock in the afternoon of the seventeenth of June, the Army arrived on the plains, in front of Waterloo, a village, partially entoured in the Forest of Soignies, where the Duke of Wellington established his Head-Quarters.

The French Army commanded by Napoleon in person, followed this movement, but the unusual severity of the weather prevented him from making any serious attack.

The rain fell in torrents, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which continued incessantly during



the night ; notwithstanding, some light Artillery advanced on La Belle Alliance, and commenced a cannonade, which was but of short duration ; when the French army bivouaced a part in advance of Genappe, the remainder on the heights between Plance-nois and the farm of Mon-Plaisir.

The Head-Quarters of Napoleon were established at the farm of Cailliou, in the hamlet of the Maison du Roi.

The Anglo-Allied army bivouaced between Smohain and Brain-la-Leud, generally upon the heights it occupied the following morning, rendered memorable by the most brilliant of victories—A victory deservedly celebrated for its great importance, and decisive results.

AN  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
**BATTLE OF WATERLOO.**

*&c. &c. &c.*

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Is what awful suspense must the portentous night of the seventeenth of June, have passed away, while upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand men, separated alone by a trifling ravine, awaited but the break of day to decide by the sword such great and important interests.

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The fertile, but open plains of Waterloo afforded no shelter from the inclemency of the weather, and the unusual cold, accompanied by heavy rain, rendered the situation of the troops, already exhausted by hunger and fatigue, particularly distressing.

The morning at length dawned, the rain still continued to fall, but ceased at intervals, which were employed on both sides in preparing for the combat.

Napoleon and his legions, little expected to find the British Army, on the following morning, in order of battle; their only fear was, that the English would escape them by effecting a retreat during the night.

If self-deceiving gasecade effaced from their memories the fatal lessons but lately taught them in the Peninsula—if the battles of Talavera, Albuera, Salamanca, Vittoria, Orthes, and Toulouse, were not sufficient to dissipate their egotism, that of Quatre-

Bras, ought to have amply convinced them of their error.

The tactics and intrepidity of the French Army, require no eulogium, but, let them do justice to the courage and unshaken firmness of their most persevering enemy, whose pretended inferiority on land was an assertion, now unquestionably refuted.

The Duke of Wellington determined not to yield an inch of ground, had taken up a position in front of the Farm of Mount St. Jean, upon the heights stretching from the plateau (A) commanding the chateau of Gomont, to (F) an elevated ground rising progressively above the Farms of La Haye and Papelotte, a deep ravine, gradually descending on this side towards ~~Chaine~~ <sup>Chaine</sup>, protected the left wing. In front and rear of the line, which the heights delineate, are several other ravines, occasionally varying in depth, rendering the position sufficiently strong,

excepting towards the centre, which presents some weak points. The right wing was protected by a long ravine descending towards Merbe-Braine, a hamlet separated from Braine-la-Leud, by an extensive Plateau, which, as it afforded no position in front, rendered the occupation of this village necessary, in order to keep open a communication with two small corps of observation, posted on the roads leading from Mons and Nivelles, to repel any attack on that side, one of which, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Colville, was placed near Tubise, about three miles and a half in advance of Hal, and ten from the field of action. The other at Clabbeek and Braine-le-chateau, situated at an equal distance, from Tubise and Braine-la-Leud, under the command of His Royal Highness, Prince Frederic of the Netherlands, a young Prince, who has exhibited sufficient proofs of talent, in his excellent arrangements, to justly entitle him to the reputation he has acquired, that of a consummate General.

The army occupied a very extended line, the principal position crossed the roads, leading from Charleroi and Nivelles to Brussels, which join at the farm of Mont St. Jean; presenting the form of a fork, of which, the handle points along a part of the Forest of Soignes to Waterloo: a village, about two miles in rear of the army. In reference to the action, the absolute centre of the Allied position rested upon the road from Charleroi, contiguous to a tree (B) remarkable from the Duke of Wellington and his staff having been frequently near it during the engagement.

The French army occupied the heights running parallel, in front of the position of the Allies, at a distance of twelve hundred and sixty yards. The intervening ground gradually descends to the centre, which, from its unevenness, afforded a partial cover to the troops as they advanced.

The scene in rear of this position, even beyond the wood of Callois and Neuve Cour, presents the form of an amphitheatre. In the former stood a trigonometrical observatory, (since fallen) which Napoleon is said to have ascended, but the assertion is unfounded.

The strength of the French army present at Waterloo, was upwards of seventy-eight thousand effective men, of which fifteen thousand were cavalry. It was composed of the first and second corps of the army, eight divisions. The sixth corps incomplete, wanting two divisions, with two divisions of the old and one division of the young guard, formed the reserve. (S) The cavalry consisted of two corps, or four divisions of heavy dragoons, two of the guard, and three divisions of light cavalry attached to the different corps of infantry.

The left of the first corps of infantry, (N) com-



manded by Lieutenant General Count d'Erlon, rested on La Belle Alliance, while its right extended towards Smolain. The artillery attached to this corps consisted of eighty pieces of cannon, including the reserve. The light cavalry, (tt) also attached, was in the rear of the right flank.

The second corps of infantry, (O) commanded by Lieutenant General Count Reille, had its right on La Belle Alliance, while the left was covered by the wood of the chateau of Gomont. The artillery of this corps amounted to upwards of sixty pieces of cannon. The division of light cavalry (zz) of this corps, was placed in observation at Men-Plaisir. The two corps of heavy cavalry, of which two divisions (ss-rr), commanded by Lieutenant General Milhaut: two divisions (xx-yy), by Lieutenant General Kellerman, were placed in the second line at equal distances. The sixth corps (P), commanded by Lieutenant General

Count de Lobau, with thirty pieces of cannon, and the division of light cavalry (æ), was in reserve, in rear of the right wing with the young guard (Q), under Lieutenant General Duhesme, for the defence of Plancenois, which, from information obtained by an intercepted letter, was expected to be attacked by fifteen thousand Prussians. The old guard (R) was posted on the heights in rear of the second corps. The horse guards (c, f'), part on the right, the remainder on the left of the Charleroi road, the park of artillery of the guard in reserve, amounting to upwards of forty pieces of cannon—twelve-pounders, occupied a position near the Maison du Roi, and the baggage of Napoleon remained at the Farm of Cailliou (b).

The Duke of Wellington, on the 11th of April, formed his army into two corps, with artillery attached to each. The fifth and sixth British divisions, with the contingent of Brunswick, formed the re-

serve. The first corps was commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, the second by Lieutenant-General Lord Hill. The Allied cavalry was under the orders of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Uxbridge (9). The different corps concentrated on the field of battle, amounted to about fifty-three thousand infantry, and thirteen thousand cavalry, including artillery-men, &c. &c., and those attached to a park of one hundred and fifty pieces of cannon. The different troops, composing this army, were as follows :—Thirteen thousand infantry, three thousand cavalry, and four brigades of artillery of the kingdom of the Netherlands, six thousand infantry and cavalry, and two brigades of artillery of the Duchy of Brunswick, with three thousand infantry of the contingent of Nassau-Usingen. The British troops, including the Hanoverian and King's German Legion, formed the greater proportion.

The following was the position of the Allied

Army at mid-day. The centre was principally under the orders of his Royal Highness the Prince of Orange.

The right of the first division (A) British foot guards, commanded by Major-General Sir George Cooke, rested on the road leading from Nivelles, having the chateau of Gomont a short distance in front of the right face. The third British division (B), under the command of Lieutenant General Count Alten, extended from the left of the guards to the road leading from Charleroi, having the Farm of La Haie-Sainte, situated in a hollow, in front of the left face. Between the brigades of the third division was placed the contingent of Nassau-Usingen (g), under General Kruse; a part of the Brunswick troops (f), commanded by Major General Olferman, with two brigades of artillery, and its cavalry upon each flank, were posted in the first line with the royal guards; the remainder in reserve. The different bat-

teries of the centre were placed according to the nature of the ground. Lord Hill commanded the right wing; but his corps (the second) was incomplete, a part being detached in observation on the road from Mons. In consequence, the third division (D) of the kingdom of the Netherlands, commanded by Lieut.-General Baron Chassé, of the first corps, was placed under his Lordship's orders, and posted at Braine-la-Leud, occupying the height (E) at the Farm of Vieux-Foriez. To secure the right flank of the centre, the second British division, commanded by Lieutenant General Sir H. Clinton, with its artillery, and the fourth brigade of the fourth division, were posted, *en potence*, in rear of the right, upon a plateau (C) difficult of access, being protected by a ravine, which extends to Merbe-Braine. The natural strength of this position rendered any attempt, on the part of the enemy, to turn the right extremely hazardous.

The left wing of the army was formed of two

divisions. The fifth British division (G), commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton, and the tenth brigade (bb), detached from the sixth British division, extended from the main road of Charleroi, along the roads, leading to Ohain and Wavre. Two brigades, forming a part of the second division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, commanded by Lieutenant-General de Perponcher, were separated by a part of the fifth British division. The defence of Smohain, at the extreme left, was entrusted to Colonel, the Prince of Saxe-Weymar, commanding the second brigade, composed of the troops of Nassau, (in the service of the King of the Netherlands). The artillery was ranged at equal distances within the hedge of the Ohain road.

The defence of La Haie-Sainte, an important position and the key of the centre, was confided to the second brigade of the King's German Legion, commanded by Colonel Ompteda, who caused the Farm and Orchards to be occupied by the second bat-

talion of light infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Baring.

The walls of the chateau of Gomont were loop-holed, and the grounds and orchards being divided and surrounded by high hedges, contributed in a great measure to strengthen this point. The defence of this most important position, the key of the right of the Allied Army, was entrusted to the first division of British guards. Three companies of the Coldstream Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel McDonnell, forming part of the brigade of Major-General Sir J. Byng, were placed under cover in the chateau and garden, and successively reinforced by four companies of the same regiment, and the four light companies of the division. These different detachments were led by Colonels Woodford and Hepburn, and Lieutenant-Colonels Home and Lord Saltoun. The four light companies, supported by the first battalion of the second regiment of Nassau, and one battalion



of light infantry of the Duchy of Brunswick, occupied the wood and orchards.

Between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of the eighteenth, the weather proving more favourable, Napoleon advanced towards the Farm of Rossumme, and placed himself near it, on a hillock at the edge of the main road, leading from Charleroi to Brussels, (N 1) remarkable for its position and commanding view (10). It was from that height he continued to direct the different movements of his army, until three o'clock in the afternoon, having always four squadrons of his guard near him.

At half-past eleven o'clock in the morning, the <sup>L</sup>tiraill<sup>A</sup>eurs of the first French division (O) under the command of Jerome Napoleon (11) commenced the attack on the Wood of Gomont, at the same time that the advanced posts became engaged in front of Papelotte. The first gun was fired from the plateau of Mont St.

Jean by the brigade, under Captain Cleeve, of the King's German Artillery, between the left of the division of the Guards, and the right of Count Alten's division, when the cannonade became general. At mid-day the roar of the guns was tremendous! Whilst on both sides two hundred mouths of fire, vomited destruction into the firm and undaunted columns, the division of Jerome Napoleon advanced on Gomet. The intrepid voltigeurs quickly passed the ravine, and entered the wood, but the defence was as obstinate as the attack was vigorous. Notwithstanding, the enemy gained ground. After a sanguinary contest of two hours, the advanced posts in the wood and adjoining field were obliged, by the impetuosity and superior number of the assailants, gradually to fall back, a part on the chateau, the remainder behind the hedge of the orchard, and, ultimately, by the hollow road which runs along it. As every inch of ground was bravely disputed, the French perceived, when too late, that a well directed fire through the

loop-holes of the garden wall, masked by a hedge, had greatly increased their loss; still they returned to the attack with redoubled fury, with the hope of carrying the chateau of Gomont—but in vain!

Although they succeeded in forcing the gate of the farm yard, they were instantly repulsed by the bayonet; and this important point, defended with heroic bravery, was held during the day, notwithstanding the chateau was in flames, and nearly surrounded by the enemy (12). A part of the divisions of General Bachelu and Foy, in supporting the right of the division of Jerome Napoleon, upon the plain, suffered considerably by the continual discharges of grape shot from the advanced batteries of the centre, which repeatedly dispersed them. During this period, the second brigade (F) of the second division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, was vigorously and repeatedly attacked by the fourth division under Lieutenant-General Durutte, and bravely maintain-

ed the point of junction by Frichermont and Smohain.

Napoleon seeing that all efforts were ineffectual to carry the chateau of Gomont, at the same time that his right wing was exposed to a most destructive fire from the opposite batteries, ordered a formidable attack against the left wing of the Allied Army, no doubt with the double intention of forcing back the left on the centre, and of preventing all communication with the Prussians.

General Count d'Erlon, having formed a strong column (T) of a part of the second and third divisions of the first corps, led it on in person, under cover of eighty pieces of cannon; favoured by a deep ravine, he approached rapidly at the head of this column, (m) and crowned the heights,

Although exposed to a galling fire, the enemy

charged, without hesitation, the first brigade of the second division of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which, having deployed into line, in order to occupy more ground, could not resist this formidable mass, and fell back with considerable loss. It immediately rallied on the fifth battalion of Militia, in reserve, and advanced.

In the mean time, whilst the eighth British brigade (aa), commanded by Major-General Sir James Kempt, vigorously resisted this attack, the ninth British brigade (z) under the command of Major-General Sir Dennis Pack, charged the right flank of the column with the bayonet: this gallant charge of the Scotch, defeated the enemy, who had already pierced the line. The brave and ever to be lamented Sir Thomas Picton, so beloved, so venerated by the British Army, fell in the meridian of his glory in this sanguinary conflict—thus terminating a life eminent-

ly distinguished, and long devoted to the service of his country.

The brigade of heavy cavalry (cc) consisting of the Royal Dragoons, Scotch Grey's, and Inniskilling's, commanded by Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, rushed upon these regiments, which had so daringly advanced, and put a considerable number to the sword. The eagles of the forty-fifth, and one hundred and fifth regiments were taken by the Scotch Grey's and Inniskilling's; the column being repulsed by the infantry and heavy cavalry, was charged on each flank by the brigades of light cavalry (dd), commanded by Major-General Sir J. Vandeleur, and that of Major-General Ghigny, forming a part of the division (o) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant-General Baron Colaert: upwards of two thousand men were made prisoners. The brave General Ponsonby, at the head of his brigade, dispersed the enemy a se-

cond time in the low ground (*n*), and charging with unexampled intrepidity the batteries (*o*), on the right of the first French corps, sabered the gunners, and dismounted thirty pieces of cannon; but the cuirassiers, under Lieutenant-General Milhaud, having advanced to the main road, to support the attack of the infantry, under Count d'Erlon, which had proved unsuccessful, the brigade of Major-General Traversé, on one side, and the fourth regiment of lancers, on the other, falling at once on those brave dragoons (*p*), who, unable to resist so impetuous, and so formidable an attack, were obliged to retire with considerable loss. The gallant General Ponsonby, having been dismounted, was killed by the lancers.

Whilst this incomparable charge of the fallen hero, and the reverses sustained by the infantry, had thrown the right wing of the French army into confusion, a desperate attack was directed against La Haie-Sainte. In this attempt, a long time unsuc-



cessful, a brigade of the second French division was almost entirely destroyed, but immediately reinforced by a part of the first division, supported by the cuirassiers of Lieutenant-General Kellerman. Upon this occasion, the household brigade (k), under Lord Edward Somerset, made several brilliant and gallant charges in support of this important post, defended with obstinacy, and protected by the Artillery of the centre and left.

The second battalion of the light infantry of the King's German Legion, after having expended its ammunition, defended this farm with the bayonet, but was at length obliged to retire, when La Haie-Sainte fell into the hands of the enemy. This advantage secured to him the means of concentrating, by degrees, his heavy masses of cavalry in a hollow, in rear of that farm (U) almost secure from the fire of the Artillery.

From this moment commenced the repeated charges of the cuirassiers, lancers, &c. on the centre; and a contest, unexampled in the annals of war, continued, without intermission, for three hours, every description of force being amalgamated on the spot.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, Napoleon moved forward the Old Guard to a position in rear of La Belle Alliance (S) and advanced himself to a hillock (No. 2.) similar in appearance to his first position, on the side of the main road in advance of the guard. After the disasters sustained by his right wing, he rode through the ranks, rallied and re-formed his broken troops, and re-animated them by his presence.

He then ordered the Artillery of General Nourri, attached to the sixth corps, to replace the guns dismounted on the right of the line, when the fire from that point re-commenced.

At this moment, troops were perceived to debouch from the wood, called Bois de Paris, in rear of Frichermont, which Napoleon, on his return to the hillock (N 2) conceived to be the advanced guard of Marshal Grouchy. This report was quickly spread throughout the army, and communicated by General Labédoyère to the left wing, ineffectually employed against the chateau of Gomont; but far different! the corps of Marshal Grouchy, composed of thirty-six thousand infantry and six thousand cavalry, was engaged at Wavre, with the third Prussian corps, under General Von Thielman. The fatal mistake was soon discovered. The troops which were seen to debouch from the wood proved to be two regiments of Prussian dragoons, escorting their intrepid Field Marshal; this indefatigable warrior, impatient to await the arrival of his troops, had advanced to reconnoitre the ground.

It has never been explained, why Napoleon ne-

glected to guard the débouches of the wood; however, in making his dispositions of attack, this important point was evidently overlooked.

The Count Lobau, with the sixth corps, supported by the Young Guard, was ordered to defend Plancenois to the last extremity, part of the artillery of this corps having been sent to the right of the French line, to occupy the position of the guns dismounted by the brigade of General Ponsonby, *was replaced by that of the guard.* The cavalry of General d'Aumont was stationed upon a plain, in front of the village. At three o'clock the eight regiments of the old foot guards were formed in squares (S) on both sides of the Charleroi road. Four regiments of the Horse Guards, and all the heavy cavalry, advanced towards the plateau of Mont St. Jean.

The intention of Napoleon to break, if possible,

the centre of the Allied Army, before the arrival of the Prussians, did not escape the vigilant and penetrating eye of the British Chief, who, finding his right in no way threatened, ordered, about three o'clock, the second division, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, with the artillery and fourth brigade of the fourth division, to advance to the support of the guards from the plateau above Merbe-Braine (C) towards the right of the centre (u) resting upon Gomont, the brigade of Major-General Adam to the left, and the brigades of Colonels Halkett and Duplat, more to the right. A brigade of guns, attached to the division of light cavalry, under Lieutenant-General Piré, stationed at Mon-Plaisir, having advanced (j) to raze the wall of the garden of Gomont, was dislodged by the fourth British brigade, under Colonel Mitchell, supported by the cavalry of Brunswick. The third division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, commanded by Lieu-

tenant General Chassé, marched from Braine-la-Leud upon the centre.

The first brigade, commanded by Colonel Detmers, which had occupied the village, moved towards the plateau, lately occupied by the second division (C) at the same time that four battalions advanced in square, being threatened by the enemy's cavalry. A short time afterwards, the two battalions, which had received orders to remain in their first position, rejoined the division. The second brigade, under Major-General Daubremé, which, with the artillery attached, had occupied the plateau above Braine-la-Leud, at the farm of Vienx-Foriez (E) advanced by Merbe-Braine, and the whole division took up, at six o'clock, a second position, in reserve along the road (W) leading from Nivelles.

About this time, the engagement became general, La Haie-Sainte, having fallen into the hands of the

enemy, the heavy cavalry, cuirassiers, carabiniers, dragoons, and cavalry of the guard, rushed simultaneously forward, and gained the plateau of the centre, with the evident and brave determination to afford each other support.

From this moment, the most desperate and successive charges were made upon the squares of the Allies, formed in echelon, some in advance, others a little to the rear, upon a declivity, gradually descending from the crest of this position; where, notwithstanding they were repeatedly attacked on every side, and harrassed without intermission, they remained immoveable, presenting with unshaken firmness, an impenetrable bulwark to the violent shocks of the daring and intrepid cuirassiers; whose broken squadrons, although frequently charged by the Allied cavalry, reformed with unexampled quickness, and returned to the assault.



The engagement at this time, assumed a most serious aspect. The enemy's cavalry, rushing on with increasing impetuosity, amounting almost to frenzy, obliged the gunners and men attached to the artillery of the centre, to retire for temporary protection into the squares, whilst they furiously passed through the intermediate spaces. Four times were the guns taken and retaken, when our vigilant artillerymen quickly re-assumed their posts, and, with a well directed fire, assisted in the overthrow of these retreating squadrons.

In many instances, individuals left their ranks, and rode round the squares, with the intention of drawing the fire on themselves, to enable the cavalry to charge with a greater probability of success : to enumerate the many proofs of cool indifference to life (13), among the dauntless cuirassiers, is impossible ; however, the following circumstance which occurred, will give the reader an idea of their unexampled intrepidity.

After the thirtieth and seventy-third regiments had sustained several charges of the cuirassiers, the officer in command, finding every attempt to break them had proved unsuccessful, resorted to finesse, and, riding up to the front of the square, made an offer of his sword to Major-General Sir Colin Halkett. One of the staff immediately near him, observed, that he wished to surrender, but far different was the opinion of the General, who had before experienced this *ruse de guerre*. General Halkett rebutted with silent indifference this unworthy stratagem, which so confounded and enraged his wily antagonist, that he once more called on to the charge his disappointed band; but no efforts could shake the steady confidence in their General, which inspired our men to repel this attack.

During these moments of extreme anxiety and incertitude, the Duke of Wellington, the Prince of Orange, the Earl of Uxbridge, Lord Hill, and many

other distinguished officers, shewing themselves wherever the attack was most violent, animated the soldiers by their example, established confidence, and assisted to re-form the squares, considerably weakened by the destructive fire to which they were exposed ; and frequently, by leading different regiments to the charge, contributed, in every degree, to the success of the day.

The household brigade under Lord Edward Somerset, covered itself with glory ; in one of the many brilliant charges it made, the cuirassiers were completely overthrown, and many driven head-long over an height (B), into a sand-pit on the main road, leading from Charleroi.

The carabiniers of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Baron Trip, forced the cuirassiers in several charges, to retire into the hollow, in rear of La Haie-Sainte (U). The light cavalry of

the centre being frequently opposed to some of the chosen brigades of heavy dragoons, gave such proofs of heroism, and ability, as are seldom to be met with. In returning from a charge at the head of his brigade (r) of the kingdom of the Netherlands, the brave General Van Meric was killed. (14)

The squares of the British Guards, under Generals Maitland and Byng, presented an impenetrable rampart of bayonets; their destructive file firing, dismayed, and caused the utmost disorder in the superb ranks of the horse grenadiers and the carabiniers, by whom they were principally charged. General Cooke commanding this gallant division, lost his arm.

The courage and firmness of the other troops of the centre, was not less conspicuous, nor less to be admired, than that of the guards. The third division, commanded by Lieutenant-General Count Alten, (who was afterwards severely wounded), being much

exposed, from the nature of the position it occupied, was repeatedly charged. The square formed by the thirtieth, and seventy-third British regiments, somewhat in advance, immediately under the command, and forming a part of the brigade of Major-General Sir Colin Halkett, was charged eleven times by the lancers of the guard and cuirassiers. (15)

It is not difficult to judge, from the foregoing circumstances, the degree of rage and ungovernable fury which animated their attacks, and led, after a close combat of three hours, to no one result, but a horrible and bloody carnage!

The omnipotent and just hand of providence forsook, not for a moment, her favorite Chief; ever present where the danger was most imminent, or where the battle raged with the greatest fury, he was preserved, notwithstanding the principal part of his staff was either killed, or wounded—preserved,

not only to the wishes of his grateful country, but of Europe, in whose cause he has always been triumphant !

In the mean time, a part of the fourth Prussian corps, under the command of Lieutenant-General Count Bulow; approached by Lasne, after having surmounted the greatest difficulties in passing the defiles of St. Lambert.

Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, the fifteenth brigade, under General Von Losthin, and the second regiment of Silesian hussars, with a battery of twelve-pounders, were advancing by the wood of Paris. The sixteenth brigade, under Colonel Von Hiller, followed immediately after with the artillery of reserve, and all the cavalry, under the orders of His Royal Highness, Prince William of Prussia. Marshal Blucher, without awaiting his reinforcements, determined to attack the enemy, and therefore order-

ed these two brigades to debouch from the wood; the fifteenth by the left, the sixteenth to the right.

The eighteenth regiment of the line, and the third regiment of the Militia of Silesia, were detached at Frichermont to keep open a communication with the left of the Allied Army.

The French turned some guns (N) against the Prussians, but no affair of moment took place there. Marshal Blucher having reconnoitered the position of the enemy, resolved, that his first and principal attack should be made against the reserve, in consequence, he ordered General Bulow to advance on the plateau (K) in front of Plancenois, with the greater part of the cavalry.

The fourth corps then formed between the wood of Ranson, and the chateau of Frichermont (L), being joined, almost immediately, by the thirteenth brigade,



under Lieutenant-General Von Hacke, and the fourteenth brigade, under Major-General Von Ryssel, from which they had been for a short time detached, received orders to move to the attack of the village of Plancenois (M) which General Count Lobau with the sixth corps, supported by the Young Guard, defended with great obstinacy, notwithstanding his corps was few in number. That village was taken and retaken twice, and, although the efforts of the fourth Prussian corps were unremitted, they frequently proved ineffectual. Count d'Erlon having rallied a brigade of his first corps, supported the left of the sixth, and advanced with the intention to separate the two armies, and, if possible, prevent all communication with the Duke of Wellington.

Napoleon had already sent four regiments of the Young Guard, under General Duhesme to support the right of the sixth corps, which the sixteenth Prussian brigade, had frequently attempted to turn, when

they succeeded in entering the village a second time, and retook the church-yard, which was occupied by the fifteenth regiment of the line, and the first regiment of the militia of Silesia. Two battalions of the Old Guard were again sent from their position in rear of of La Belle Alliance (S) to support the Young Guard, at the same time that the famous battery of twelve-pounders of the former, received orders to advance and fire over the village, to hold the Prussians in check; by which movement, a partial success was obtained, and every possible exertion was necessary to be used, to enable them to maintain their position.

The second and eighth regiments of Prussian hussars, vigorously repulsed the attacks of some light cavalry of the first and sixth corps. The fifth brigade, and two battalions of the second corps having arrived, under the command of Lieutenant-General Pirch, moved to the right of the village (M).

This reinforcement enabled the Prussians to renew the attack, with their usual ardour and intrepidity.

Napoleon still persisted in ordering his troops to advance, notwithstanding he knew his reserve had not only been attacked, but was placed in a most dangerous and untenable position; his retreat in case of failure, almost certain of being cut off; and the arrival of Marshal Grouchy extremely doubtful.—Although Marshal Ney and many of his most experienced generals considered the fortune of the day more than compromised, every attack having proved unsuccessful, he continued obstinately blind, impressed with the feeling that victory was yet within his grasp, and that success would ultimately crown his efforts. About seven o'clock in the afternoon, he ordered four regiments of his guards to advance towards Mont St. Jean, and moved himself with the entire staff of his army (N 3) to the hollow road

which intersects the rising ground, or plateau, in front of La Haie-Sainte.

Four batteries of the artillery of the guard were in position on his right and left, but not finding the fire to have sufficient effect, he dismounted, and ascending the height, pointed several guns himself (16). A battery, which had been previously posted in advance of the gardens of La Haie-Sainte, caused great destruction in the third British division, in position, but a short distance from it (17).

Seeing the greater part of his cavalry fatally engaged upon the plateau, occupied by the British guards and Count Alten's division, he ordered Marshal Ney, at the head of the third and fourth regiments of chasseurs, and the third and fourth regiments of grenadiers of the old guard, to make a fourth attack upon the centre. This column of veterans advanced to the support of the cuirassiers,

whose broken squadrons, as they successively returned from the charge, re-formed in the hollow in rear of La Haie-Sainte (U).

The Duke of Wellington being informed of the progress of Count Bulow, and of the advance of the first Prussian corps, under Lieutenant-General Von Ziethen, made every necessary disposition to repel this formidable attack, and avail himself of the first favourable moment to act offensively along his whole line. The different brigades continued to occupy the same positions, excepting some battalions of the Duchy of Brunswick, which moved upon La Haie-Sainte. These brave troops, during the contest, amply avenged the death of their gallant and illustrious Duke.

About half past seven o'clock in the evening, the middle guard advanced in column left in front, with supported arms and drums beating, evincing the

most unparalleled coolness, and deploying as it approached (v.v.v.v.) the British position, opened to the view, two guns between each interval, and upon the flanks of the battalions, which were severally loaded with grape; cool and undismayed, the Allied troops awaited the assault of this formidable band, when a dreadful and destructive fire of grape and musketry commenced the work of death on both sides. The Prince of Orange, yielding to the natural impetuosity of youth, placed himself at the head of the first regiment of Nassau-Usingen, and, whilst bravely leading it on to the charge, unfortunately received a wound by a musket ball, which, passing through the left shoulder, obliged him to quit the field. It is unnecessary to make any comment on the conduct of his Royal Highness during that memorable day. The Nation, over which he is destined to reign, and the troops who witnessed his gallantry, will bear ample testimony to posterity of his worth.



The third division of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under the command of Lieutenant-General Chassé, which had taken up a second position, in reserve, at six o'clock, upon the Charleroi road, advanced most opportunely with a light brigade of guns ( $\omega$ ), under Major Van der Smissen, to the support of the third British division, then warmly engaged with the Imperial Guards, to whose defeat it materially contributed. The attack of the *moyenne garde*, having equally failed at all points, the battery before mentioned ( $\omega$ ), and that of Captain Napier ( $x$ ), made dreadful havoc in their columns; Marshal Ney had his horse shot under him, General Michel was killed, and General Friant wounded. Astonished by a resistance so unexpected, and seeing their ranks materially thinned by the dreadful fire to which they were exposed, they wavered, but retired not—when the intrepid Wellington, observing their hesitation, ordered the line to advance, and, rushing on with the bayonet, swept the field before him.



The brigades of cavalry, under Major-Generals Vandeleur and Vivian, having moved from the left of the Army to the extreme right, charged the enemy in flank, whilst the Allied cavalry advanced to the front, through the intervals of the squares. Although the French guards were repulsed, they retired a short distance in order, but being closely pursued by the infantry and cavalry, were ultimately thrown into the greatest confusion.

At the same time that the orchards and wood of Gomont were retaken, and the attack upon the chateau of Gomont abandoned, La Haie-Sainte was re-occupied by the Allied troops. The first Prussian corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Von Zieten (II) having arrived by O'Hain, formed a junction, about eight o'clock at night, with the extreme left of the army, and in concert with the troops of Nassau-Usingen, drove the enemy from Smohain and Papelotte, and advanced with the utmost rapidity up-

on La Belle Alliance, while the Prussian cavalry, under General Von Roeder, who had succeeded in turning the right flank of the enemy, closely pursued, and harrassed him in his retreat.

The roar of cannon in the rear at Plancenois, the cavalry panic-struck, or destroyed, the middle guard defeated, and the survivors flying in disorder, altogether contributed to spread terror and confusion throughout the French army. Although the victory was decided in the centre, the sixth corps, supported by the Young, and two battalions of the Old Guard, still continued to defend Plancenois, with the solitary hope of securing the retreat.

The first corps of the Prussian army, having formed a junction with the right of the corps, already engaged, Prince Blucher caused a third and decisive attack to be made on the French position, in order to cut off that part of the army which defended it. The six-

teenth brigade, having succeeded in turning the village, the other brigades rushed on with such impetuosity, that further resistance was impossible.

The whole of the Prussian army having driven back the reserve of the enemy, forced it to retire towards the Charleroi road, where it came in contact with its left wing, already in the greatest disorder, and in full retreat, and crowned its success by a prompt and vigorous pursuit. During this period, Napoleon retired on La Belle Alliance, and ordered four regiments of the Old Guard, which had not been previously engaged, to cover his retreat; but the attempt was vain, against troops flushed with victory, who had already resisted the powerful efforts of nearly the entire of his forces. Notwithstanding, their defence was desperate, and their retreat well conducted, overpowered by numbers, and obliged to retire, they were almost entirely destroyed.

Those who escaped, having formed themselves into two squares (*l'*), near Rossemme, Napoleon threw himself for protection into the second, when the first being much pressed by the fugitives, was charged by a regiment of British cavalry, and nearly annihilated. One general cry was heard, "*sauvons l'Aigle ;*" when the soldiers having formed a group round the standard-bearer, succeeded in carrying it off, favoured by the decline of the day. The division of General Pirè, and all the light cavalry had been posted in the rear, to assist in covering the retreat of the army, and rally, if possible, the flying troops; but, unable to stem the torrent, it soon participated in that flight which it was intended to suppress. All the material was abandoned—his army had ceased to exist. Nothing remained but a confused unorganized mass, which rushed with terrified impetuosity on the Maison du Roi, with the hope of gaining Genappe. Two hundred pieces of cannon, an immense number of pri-

soners, among whom were many General Officers, fell into the hands of the victorious Army.

Marshal Blucher ordered all his cavalry under General Gneysenau to advance, who pursued the enemy from one bivouac to another ; the darkness of the night, and encumbrances of the road, alone prevented their total destruction. Many more prisoners, sixty pieces of cannon, and the carriage and equipages of Napoleon, taken upon the road to, and at Genappe, added to the trophies of that memorable day !

Napoleon, amidst the confusion and disorder which existed, followed by a part of his staff, succeeded in making his escape, and repassed the Sambre at Charleroi, on the nineteenth of June, at four o'clock in the morning. (18)

Whilst the Prussian troops were occupied in pur-

suit of the French, the Anglo-allied army remained upon the field of battle, and fulfilled the painful, yet gratifying task, of administering to the ease and comfort of the wounded of both armies.

To give an account or even a partial idea of the loss of the French army, is totally impossible ; the wreck which every where presented itself to the eye on the morning of the nineteenth, formed a mass of destruction so horrible, and extended, that human nature even now shudders to contemplate.

The loss of the Anglo-allied army has been estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand men, and that of the Prussians at three thousand. (19)

Thus terminated the battle of Waterloo, ever memorable in the annals of the world.

Peace to the manes of the brave ! and glory to the

surviving heroes who maintained the sacred cause of freedom and of Europe !

Whilst the events of that momentous day, are fresh in our recollection, and our minds are carried back to a remembrance of the painful anxiety, with which every feeling heart was possessed for the fate of those brave men, whose lives were at issue to insure the repose and safety of another land, where a virtuous and wise Monarch reigns, the Protector of a free and independent constitution, the best bulwark of a Nation's rights; let us not forget the meed of praise which is justly due to the inhabitants of Brussels, and of every city and village throughout the kingdom of the Netherlands, to which the wounded strangers were conveyed, but more particularly to the kind and sympathizing Fair, whose unremitting attentions, and modest benevolence, can never be ~~obliterated~~ <sup>obliterated</sup> from the breasts of those who experienced their hospitality—whose sufferings were solaced by their hand.

FINIS.



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*EXPLANATORY NOTES.*

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

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(\*) The most illustrious and most Noble Lord Arthur, Duke, Marquis, and Earl of Wellington, of Wellington, Marquis of Douro, in Somerset, Viscount Wellington of Talavera and Wellington, and Baron Douro of Wellesley in the said County of Somerset; a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, in Great Britain and Ireland; Field Marshal of His Armies, Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards (Blue); Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, and Commander in Chief of the Cautionary Army in France; Prince of Waterloo, and a Field Marshal in the Netherlands; Duke of Ciudad-Rodrigo, Grandee of Spain, of the First Class,

and Captain-General of the Kingdom of Spain; Duke of Vitoria, Marquis of Torres-Vedras, Count of Vimeira, and Marshal-General in Portugal. Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of the Golden Fleece, Knight of the Spanish Military Order of Saint Ferdinand; Knight Grand Cross of the Imperial Military Order of Maria Theresa; Knight Grand Cross of the Imperial Order of Saint George of Russia; Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Ghost of France; Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Black Eagle of Russia; Knight Grand Cross of the Portuguese Royal and Military Order of the Tower and Sword; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of the Sword of Sweden; Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Elephant of Denmark; Knight Grand Cross of the Saxon Order of the Crown of Rue; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of William of the Netherlands; Knight Grand Cross of the Abancade of Sardinia; of Maximilian Joseph of Bavaria, and of the Order of Fidelity of the Grand Duchy of Baden, &c. &c. Doctor of Civil Laws, &c. &c.

His Grace is Brother to the Most Noble the Marquis of Wellesley, was born in Ireland, May the 1st, 1769, and elevated to the Peerage for his important victories obtained over the French armies in the Peninsula; for which his Grace, the Officers, and Men under his command, received the thanks of the Cortes of Spain, who conferred

upon him the honors before mentioned, and which have been since confirmed by Ferdinand the Seventh, King of Spain. His Grace has also received the repeated thanks of both Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; but particularly on the 22d June, 1815, for his most glorious and decisive victories obtained over the French armies in the Netherlands, commanded by Marshal Ney at Quatre-Bras, on the 16th of June, and by Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo, on the memorable 18th of June following, Anno Domini 1815.

(1) Some peasants who remained during the action in the village, stated to me that it was taken, and retaken, four different times; both parties fighting with such inveteracy, that those whose arms were destroyed, closed with their antagonists, resorting to every possible exertion of which personal prowess is capable, to prove the conflict fatal.

Quarter was scarcely given on either side. In the southern tower of the castle of Ligny is a vaulted apartment to which there is no visible entrance, but by an aperture from above; into this place the French threw several wounded Prussians, and fired upon them through this opening. Inhuman as this act must appear, the feeling injud

will review each scene of bloodshed with additional horror, when it is known that the French were by no means singular in evincing their hatred, and that such merciless revenge was prompted by a spirit of retaliation; yet notwithstanding their deadly animosity to each other, there have been instances worthy of record, when the nobler passions predominated; one of which I am happy to relate.

Immediately previous to the capture of Ligny, a Prussian officer stationed at the farm of Dupont in that village, being attacked by a party of French Tirailleurs, defended it with such bravery that he alone survived when the enemy succeeded in forcing the gate of the Farm Yard. Aware of the fate which he considered would inevitably await him, should he fall into the hands of the French soldiers, and availing himself of the only place of refuge, which presented itself at the moment, he quickly descended into a well, but not unobserved by his watchful opponent in command, who addressed him to the following effect:—"Come up brave soldier, you have done your duty, and if any individual here is dastardly enough to attempt your life, he shall only succeed when I have ceased to exist."

Previous to the commencement of the action, Napoleon left the Mill of Fleurus, at which place he made every necessary arrange-

ment for the approaching contest, and advanced to a Roman Tomb upon the plain, accompanied by his Staff, and a Land Surveyor named Simon, whom he had fixed on for a guide.

From this point the first gun was fired as a signal for the general attack.

During the Engagement, the position of Head Quarters was much exposed to the fire from the Prussian Artillery on the heights; Simon, unused to such perilous surveys, was induced to dismount, with the hope of greater safety, which Napoleon perceiving, thus observed, "I think, Sir, you seem alarmed—dissipate your fears—nothing can hurt you as long as you remain close to me."

(2) "EN POTENCE," is a term in Tactics, and used when either wing of an Army is thrown back, receding from the line direct, and forming an angle upon the right or left centre.

(3) It was to the front and right of this Mill, in the fork of the cart road branching off to the Castle and Village of Ligny, that Marshal Blücher, having had his horse shot under him in heading a charge of Cavalry, remained, without being recognised, in the power of the enemy, but was retaken immediately afterward.



His Highness suffered considerably by the bruises he received from the contending parties, who frequently rode over him during the contest.

(4) Plateau, the table or summit of a hill or rising ground.—

Marshal Blucher was again attacked in this bivouac by the Fourth Corps, under General Girard, when he lost twenty-four pieces of cannon, and had a considerable number of men made prisoners. This unexpected movement, on the part of the French Army, decided the Marshal to commence his retreat upon Wavre sooner than he had at first contemplated.

(5) Fabius Maximus, one of the greatest Captains of ancient Rome, was five times elevated to the dignity of Consul, and obtained from his extraordinary merits, extreme prudence, and superior judgment, the title of the Shield of Rome. Hannibal, who was deservedly considered one of the first Generals of the day, notwithstanding the splendid Victory he obtained at Cannes, over the Roman Army under Varron, declined advancing upon Rome, defended by the remains of that very Army which he had almost annihilated ; in consequence of its having been placed under Fabius, to whose skill and abilities

he was by no means a stranger. His procrastinating mode of warfare fatigued and dispirited the army of Hannibal, as Fabius always avoided to give battle or sacrifice the lives of his soldiers, unless certain of victory.

The pre-eminent qualities of the modern Fabius are by no means confined in similarity to those of the ancient.

The young Scipio, contemporary of Fabius, was named Pro-Consul at the early age of twenty-four years, at which time he assumed, upon the death of his uncles, the command of the army in Spain, and by his virtues, consummate skill, and the superiority of his manœuvres, re-conquered that country, and obtained for himself and his army the love and affection of the people. He was afterwards elevated to the dignity of Consul, as a reward for his wisdom and transcendent talents, and ultimately, after displaying the most profound and inexhaustible resources in the art of war, he defeated Hannibal on the field of Zama, obliging that General and the Senate of Carthage to sue for peace upon any terms which the Romans might think it prudent to grant them.

(6) The Duke of Wellington having shewn a part of his army in

order of battle on the morning of the seventeenth, ordered, about eleven o'clock, the troops to retire by the roads of Genappe and Nivelles, and the third British division, under Lieutenant General Count Alten, to cover this movement. In consequence this division fell back on Quatre-Bras from the position it had occupied during the night, in advance of the Field of Battle, upon the Charleroi road, and re-advanced in the direction of Namur, as far as the Cabaret, called Le Paradis, in the village of Thyle, in front of the right of the French position. This admirable manœuvre completely deceived Marshal Ney, who threw back the right wing of his army upon the wood of Delhutte, in order to be prepared to repel this attack, at the same time that he expected his left wing to be engaged by a force which he fancied lay concealed in the wood of Bossu.—On the contrary, the third division having occupied the village for an hour, defiled to the rear of Le Paradis, in the direction of Genappe, covered by the houses and adjoining wood; nor did Marshal Ney discover, for some time, the error into which he had fallen.

Some partial skirmishing took place between the advanced posts in front of the left of the Allied position, at an early hour in the morning, and immediately previous to the contemplated retreat upon Waterloo.

(7) During the retreat through Genappe, the covering Squadron of the Seventh Hussars, under the command of Major Hodge, of the same regiment, particularly signalised itself. It was formed opposite the Hotel Roi d'Espagne, when a regiment of French Lancers entered that Village. The Landlord, who was conversing with Major Hodge and another Officer, observed—"Gentlemen, you had better retire;" to which the gallant Major replied—"We do not fear them," and instantly charging, drove them back. Notwithstanding the repeated defeats which the enemy experienced, he returned to the attack with fresh troops, which still failed to make any attempt on these brave men—but some flanking squadrons having passed the Bridge at Wais, to his left, and the Ford\* of the Dyle at Vieux-Genappe, to the right, he was obliged to retire a short distance, but not until his gallant party had sabered a considerable number of the Lancers, among whom was the Colonel, who lost his arm.

Having reformed his squadron opposite the post-house at the other

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\* It has been asserted that there is a Bridge over the Dyle at Vieux-Genappe—a temporary one exists, which is only used by the Inhabitants at harvest time. The width of the river is not more than six feet, and from one foot and an half to three feet in depth.

side of the village, he again awaited the Lancers, but opening to the right and left as they approached, he found himself attacked by a squadron of Cuirassiers, whose powerful horses and heavy armour rendered him perfectly incompetent to ~~overcome~~ <sup>withstand</sup> them.

This brave and distinguished Officer fell, covered with wounds, as also several of his men, in this heroic but unequal contest.

It was at this moment that a squadron of the Life Guards, led on by Major Kelly, made that splendid and heroic charge which obtained for him, upon the field, the particular and immediate thanks of the Earl of Uxbridge, and has given to that branch of the Army the reputation it so deservedly merits.—Major Kelly personally engaged the Officer commanding the Squadron, and slew him.

General Duhesme, who commanded the Young Guard, was inhumanly sabred by an advanced party of the Prussians, on the night of the 18th of June, when standing at the door of the Hotel Roi d'Espagne, in which numerous cuts are still to be seen.

General Count Lobau, who commanded the Sixth French Corps, in reserve, was made prisoner on the confines of the village.

It was here also that the great Wellington and the venerable warrior Blücher accidentally met on the 18th, at half past ten o'clock at night, after the glorious termination of the day, and not at La Belle Alliance, as has been erroneously stated.

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(S) The high reputation which the late French Imperial Guards, (styled "Invincibles") held in Europe, during the Campaigns in Egypt, Germany, Russia, the Peninsula, and at Waterloo, has induced me to give the following Note upon the internal economy and organization of that force, and the distinctions which existed between the respective Corps of which it was composed, under the late Dynasty.

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## FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD.

Notwithstanding the four Regiments of each Arm, both the Chasseurs, and the Grenadiers, were always styled the Old Guard, yet the title of MOYENNE, or Middle Guard, was given to the Third and Fourth Regiments of each arm, because the Soldiers of the First and Second Regiments were required to have served TEN years, and those of the Third and Fourth, SIX years, before they entered into that service. The pay also differed in proportion, but did not affect

the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Old and Middle Guard. The Imperial Guard, by a succession of different circumstances, was latterly not only considerably reduced in numbers, but experienced a material change in the organization.

### THE OLD GUARD—INFANTRY.

In 1812, the Old Guard, besides a numerous Staff, was composed of Thirty five Regiments of Infantry ; of which, Thirteen Regiments, called Tirailleurs, and the same number Voltigeurs, formed what was denominated the Young Guard. There was also attached to the Guard, a Regiment of PUPILLES or Orphans.\*

All the Regiments were composed of Eight Companies, formed in two Battalions of Eight Hundred Men each. The Guard had also two Regiments of Foot Artillery, the one attached to the Old, the other to the Young Guard, and a Corps of Mariners, composed of Eight Companies.

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\* This Regiment, and the Second Regiment of Red Lancers, were Dutch ; the first was styled PUPILLES, in consequence of its being formed by youths taken from the Orphan Houses in Holland.



## CAVALRY OF THE GUARD.

The Cavalry consisted of a regiment of Horse Grenadiers, one of Dragoons, one of Light Dragoons\*, two of Lancers, a squadron of Mamelukes, four squadrons of GENDARMES D'ELITE, a regiment of Horse Artillery, and two regiments of the Train attached, with a Park of from forty to fifty Pieces of cannon—twelve-pounders, independent of some pieces—eight-pounders, attached to the Corps.

When Napoleon was forced to quit France for the Island of Elba, about eight hundred men followed him, under the command of General Cambrone ; the remainder who survived the Campaigns of 1813 and 1814, were dismissed, or placed in Regiments of the Line, by Louis XVIII. who did not retain in his service more than two thousand six hundred men of each arm, which were named the Royal Corps of Chasseurs and Grenadiers of France.

## THE OLD GUARD RE-ORGANISED.

On the return of Napoleon from the Island of Elba, he ordered the

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\* This Regiment was the most ancient of the Guard ; it was formed in Egypt under Napoleon.

Old Guard to be re-organised, and formed upon these two Corps, which were then increased to four regiments of Chasseurs, and four of Grenadiers A PIED, as before mentioned. The eight companies of both regiments were to have been composed of two hundred men each, but there was not sufficient time to complete the third and fourth regiments; indeed, many men of the latter had no other Uniform at the Battle of Waterloo, than a great coat and a foraging cap.

The eight hundred men who returned from the Island of Elba, formed the CADRE, or four companies of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Guard, who were placed at the head of the first and second battalions of the first regiments of Grenadiers and Chasseurs. All these Soldiers were decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honour\*.

There was but one eagle for each Arm—one for the four regiments of Grenadiers, and one for the four regiments of Chasseurs.

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\* Every soldier who had obtained the Decoration of the Legion of Honour, received a pension of two hundred and fifty francs a year, and became a Member of the Electoral College of the District in which he was quartered.

The Guards, but particularly the Old Guard, enjoyed many advantages not only in respect to rank, but pay. The Staff was extremely numerous. To be Colonel in Chief of a regiment, it was necessary to have the rank of General of Division; and the Major Commandant, that of General of Brigade. An officer, on entering the Guards, from the Line, served regimentally one step below that which he held in the Army; a Captain as First Lieutenant, and so throughout the Officers. A Serjeant from the Line served as a Private Soldier in the Old Guard, but was always advanced as opportunity offered. It was, in general, recruited from the Line by deserving men, and those who had seen the most service. Independent of the honour of being in that branch of the Army, it was preferable to any other. The Old Guard was alone intended for the personal safety of the Emperor; it could not receive orders except from the immediate officers of the Corps, and those attached to the Imperial Household; nor was it obliged to report or explain any circumstance which might occur, but to such authorities.

The pay was equally advantageous. Besides the indemnity for lodgings, half the expence of clothing &c. the officers received every year, on the fifteenth of August, called NAPOLEON'S MONTH, a gratuity of one month's pay, besides which, almost all the officers and

Some of the men received dotations either in money or land, which ever they preferred. Every soldier of the first regiment of each arm had 20 sols, of the second 16, and of the third and fourth regiments 14 sols per day. The cavalry was subject to the same regulations, and paid accordingly. The grenadiers and chasseurs had the same clothing; they both wore large bearskin caps, and those of the former were only distinguished, by a brass plate in front, on which the Imperial Eagle was impressed.



## THE YOUNG GUARD.

The troops which composed the Young Guard were distinguished by the denomination of Voltigeurs and Tirailleurs of the Guard.—The former were attached to the Chasseurs, the latter to the Grenadiers.

On the return of Napoleon, it was his intention to have re-organized six regiments for each arm, but he had not time to effect it. Majors commanding these Regiments were paid in every respect as the Majors of the Old Guard, but the rest of the officers were considered

and paid as those of the Line. The soldiers enjoyed the same pay and privileges as the Grenadiers of the Line.




## THE CAVALRY OF THE OLD AND YOUNG GUARD.

The Cavalry of the Guard had the same distinctions and privileges as the Foot Guards, not only in respect to rank but pay, which was regulated in the same proportion as before observed.

Each regiment was composed of twenty troops one hundred strong; of which, the ten senior were called the Old, and the remaining the Young Guard. The soldiers of the former alone wore aiguillettes,

The Young Guard à Cheval, acted as skirmishers to the Light Cavalry, Grenadiers and Dragoons, or to whatever description of troops they were attached,

 During the Red Lancers, (Dutch,) the Old Guard wore a scarlet uniform; the Young Guard was clothed in blue. The Colonel in

chief of each regiment, as in the Infantry, was a General of Division, and the Major Commandant, General of Brigade. A chef d'escadron, of the Line, who held the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in the army, on entering the Imperial Horse Guards, obtained the post of Captain; and a Serjeant or Corporal could not enter, unless he had served ten years, and then only as a private soldier; however, he was certain of promotion if his conduct was approved. The pay of the soldiers of the Young Guard was the same as that of the Line.

On the departure of Napoleon for the Island of Elba, Louis XVIII. obliged a considerable number of them to be incorporated with the line. The regiments of the Old Guard, then forming but eight troops, were called the Royal Corps of France, the same as the Infantry, but their pay was decreased. The First Regt. of Light Horse, Polish Lancers, returned to Poland, excepting Lieut.-Colonel Jersmanowsky, a Captain, three Lieutenants, and one hundred men, who followed Napoleon to the island of Elba.

\* All the Velites, who formed a part of the Red Lancers of the

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\* The Velites were young men of respectable families, chosen in the various departments and attached to this regiment. They were

Old Guard, originally Dutch, and the entire regiment were disbanded.

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## RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE CAVALRY OF THE GUARD.

On the return of Napoleon the Horse Guards were re-organized as before, but their numbers were not so considerable. He re-formed one regiment of Horse Grenadiers, one of Dragons, one of Chasseurs à cheval, and one of Red Lancers. A considerable number of the Lancers who had been disbanded rejoined their colours.

It was his intention to have formed a regiment of Polish Lancers at Soissons, but he had not time to carry it into effect.

The one hundred Poles, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel

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lightly armed, and had each to pay to the corps, three hundred Francs a-year. After serving one or more years, according to circumstances, they were appointed officers in the Line, provided their characters were unimpeached.



Jersmanowsky, who returned with Napoleon from the Island of Elba, were placed at the head of the Red Lancers, and decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honour, as a reward for their fidelity to the Emperor during his exile.

A squadron of Mamelukes and the Gendarmes d'Elite were also to have been established as before.

Rustan,\* the favourite Mameluke and former Valet de Chambre of Napoleon, in return for his Masters kindness, refused to accompany him to the Island of Elba.

Each regiment of Cavalry of the Guard had an eagle, which was burnt on the abdication of Napoleon in 1814—but on his return the following year, he presented them with others at the Champ de Mai.

It is remarkable that the Guards, notwithstanding the great loss they sustained on the field of Waterloo, preserved their eagles; that alone of the Chasseurs of the Old Guard was in danger, being in the

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\* Rustan never obtained the decoration of the Legion of Honour.

square which was charged by a British Regiment of Cavalry, near Rossomme, at nine o'clock at night, after the retreat of the French Army.



(9) This highly distinguished officer was severely wounded by a grape shot, which entering a little below the right knee, rendered immediate amputation unavoidable. His Lordship received this wound in leading on the British cavalry to the charge, about eight o'clock in the afternoon, at the end of the hedge which lies between the sand pit on the Charleroi road, and in front of the right face of the Fifth British division.

Had not the Earl of Uxbridge, now Marquis of Anglesea, met this signal misfortune, it is more than probable that Napoleon Bonaparte and the whole of his Staff would have been made prisoners.

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton fell between the two large trees marked in the same hedge row, and the gallant Sir William Ponsonby in the hollow between it, and the centre of the right wing of the French army.

(10) When Napoleon left Paris to take the command of his army, he observed to one of his Generals " Je vais me mesurer avec ce grand Wellington." Upon the morning of the 18th of June, when he approached the hillock near the hamlet of the Maison du Roi, (No. 1) and saw the Allied Army in order of battle before him, he sarcastically observed, " Ha ! je les tiens donc, ces Anglais." " Ha ! I have got these English at last," \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \* He was attended by a peasant, named Jean Baptiste de Coster, who formerly resided in a cottage upon the main road, at the commencement of the passage leading to Plancenois, but at present at Joli-Bois, between Mont-Saint Jean and Waterloo. Implicit confidence is not to be given to every account which he has been said to have related. Attendant, merely in the capacity of a guide, upon the person of Napoleon, it was utterly impossible for him, in his situation, to become acquainted with the operations of the Allied Army on the 18th of June.

From the numberless interrogatories which have been put to him by the curious who have visited the field, he may have been led to decide on subjects connected with various circumstances of the day (rather than be thought ignorant of them) to which he must have been a total stranger. Divest, however, his account of extraneous embellishments, and he will prove the most intelligent of the many guides who present themselves, independent of the interest excited by his having waited on Napoleon during that memorable day.

(11) Jerome Bonaparte, ci-devant King of Westphalia, youngest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, was styled Jerome Napoleon, in consequence of his having, in concert with the other members of his family, relinquished the name of Bonaparte.

(12) To make any comment on the officer who commanded the detachments engaged in the defence of this chateau, equivalent to his merits, is impossible; but, as a circumstance has come to my knowledge, not generally known to the public, it would be an injustice to him and the brave soldier who supported him, were I to withhold it.

When the light troops which had occupied the wood and orchards

of Gomont were forced to retire within the walls of the chateau, the French followed so immediately after, that they had nearly succeeded in entering the yard, but Lieutenant Colonel McDonnell, assisted by a corporal of his regiment, (who has since received a pension for his gallantry,) opposed themselves personally to the enemy, and prevented his entrance, not only by their strenuous and spirited exertions, but by bodily strength and athletic powers, succeeded in shutting and securing the gate.

Several French soldiers scaled the walls of the garden, but they instantly fell victims to their temerity. Their exertions to obtain this position were not alone confined to the front and left of the garden, strengthened by a ten feet wall, as a detachment from the third division of Lieutenant-General Foy, having passed through the orchard, to the rear of the garden, cut down about eight feet of the hedge which encloses it on that side; but being warmly received by a party of the guards stationed in the shrubbery, and also exposed to a heavy fire of musketry from the troops of the right wing, it was forced to relinquish the attempt, and retired after sustaining a considerable loss.

(13) The intrepid conduct of the Cuirassiers was not only

particularly marked during the engagement, but the numerous instances of extreme indifference with which they submitted to have their wounds dressed cannot be better exemplified than by the following facts :—

A private soldier of the Cuirassiers being wounded in the left side by a musket ball, which had penetrated the cuirass, it was necessary to make an incision in order to extract it. When the operation was over, the soldier coolly demanded from the surgeon, if he had found the ball, on being answered in the affirmative, he rejoined, “ had you cut an inch deeper, you would have found the Emperor.”

An uncommon instance of enthusiasm and patience under suffering is strongly depicted in the following account:—

A soldier, of the same arm, being obliged to submit to have his leg amputated, said, “ Well, if it must go, off with it.” During the operation not even a sigh was heard to escape him, but when it was finished, he desired to see his leg, and throwing it into the air exclaimed, “ Thank God, I have still a leg left—I can yet serve “ my country.”

A singular example of rash determination is pourtrayed in the annexed circumstance, to which I was myself an eye witness.

In one of the charges of the Cuirassiers, a private soldier having had his horse shot under him, fell also severely wounded, close to the bayonets of one of the squares, which having moved a few paces to the front, placed him in the centre of it; there, deploring his fate, he begged of different officers to put a period to his existence.—A soldier falling at the moment by his side, he seized his arms, and quickly disengaging the bayonet, raised his cuirass, and plunged it into his body, rolling it about with a degree of desperation and ferocity, easier to be imagined than described. Not feeling that his immediate dissolution was likely to follow this act, he withdrew the bayonet, and re-plunged it in his throat.

(14) This distinguished officer, much esteemed for his gallantry, and high sense of honor, was struck by a cannon shot in returning from a charge, after leaving to the world a strong and unequivocal proof of the noble feelings by which his general conduct was influenced.—A short time previous to his receiving the fatal blow, which put a period to his existence, he met, while engaged with the enemy, a French Ge-



neral, with whom he had lived, under the late dynasty of France, in strict terms of friendship, and whom it was either in his power to have put to the sword, or made prisoner; but deprecating the idea of taking advantage of a situation in which accident had placed him, saluted him, and said, " This, General, is my side of the field, that is yours—take care of yourself—adieu."

When General Van Merle fell, his Aid-de-Camp dismounted, and wished to remain with him, but he declined it, stating, that his services would prove more useful with his brigade than to him, as he felt that he could not survive an hour.

It appeared to me, as if this gallant soldier was impressed with a presentiment of his approaching fate. While taking some refreshment with him, and Major-General Ghigny, after the action had commenced, the latter remarked, that the fire from the enemy's Artillery was considerably encreasing: General Van Merle then observed, that his Military career would terminate on that day, and also, in a letter, addressed to his wife, found upon the table in his closet, similar feelings were expressed.

About the same time fell severely wounded Colonel Sir William Delancy, Deputy Quarter-Master General to the British Army.

This incomparable officer was deservedly esteemed by the Duke of Wellington, who honored him with his particular confidence and regard. On receiving his wound, the officers immediately near him, wished to have him removed to the village of Mont St. Jean, but he declined it for a considerable time, exclaiming "no, no, leave me where I am, I know I must die; therefore, let me at least have the satisfaction of dying upon the field."

He was afterwards removed to Waterloo, where, after lingering some days, he died deservedly regretted by the whole army.

(15) This gallant officer, was much esteemed by the Duke of Wellington in the war of the Peninsula,

For his intrepidity, and cool unbiassed judgment in the moment of danger, he has ever been conspicuous, but on that day, he surpassed even himself! he was thrice wounded, once most severely and dangerously, and had four horses shot under him, at the head of his brigade, and in leading on successively two squadrons of cavalry to the charge.

The majority of the Staff of the Duke of Wellington, was either killed or wounded upon the right and rear of the advanced square of General Halkett's brigade, his Grace being frequently with it during the action. It was supported by the square of the thirty-third and sixty-ninth regiments, which covered the interval between the former and the Guards; though not equally subject to the charges of the French cavalry, these regiments suffered considerably from the heavy cannonade to which they were exposed, and by their cool, intrepid conduct, honourably supported the character of the British soldier.

Among the many brave officers who fell on that day there is no individual more deserving of notice than Captain Crofton, of the 54th foot. This enterprising officer was appointed Brigade Major to Sir Colin Halkett, in which capacity he was grazed by a cannon ball on the hip, in the battle of the 16th, at Quatre-Bras, which obliged him to quit the field; but, on the morning of the 18th, having been informed by his servant, that a general action was likely to take place, he ordered his horse to be saddled, and being placed upon him, arrived on the field in sufficient time to assume the duties of his situation, and partake of those dangers, which his too zealous

mind, notwithstanding the severity of his wound, had imprudently led him to encounter. About five o'clock in the afternoon, while executing some orders he had received, with his usual ardour and activity, and unmindful of the pain he suffered, he was struck by a grape shot in the breast, which deprived an affectionate wife, and a numerous family of a husband and a father, and his country of an officer, whose military acquirements promised to render him an ornament to his profession.

(16) Napoleon, upon his return from the height, observed to Marshal Bertrand "Tout va bien,"—implying, that since he had laid those guns, the fire was more correct; and made a greater impression upon the British columns, against which, he had particularly pointed them.

17 This battery, which did great execution, is particularly marked upon the plan, between the British line, and the corner of La Haie-Sainte. It was withdrawn late in the afternoon, by order of Napoleon.

It was the same which had advanced in the commencement of the action from Mon-Plaisir, to raze the wall of the garden of Gomont.

(18) Napoleon slept the night of the 17th of June, previous to the battle of Waterloo, in the cottage of Jean Joseph Aubrij, to the rear of the farm of Cailliou, where he had established his head-quarters. He was accompanied by five servants, two of whom remained in immediate attendance upon him. It was not until the following morning that the peasant discovered to whom his house had afforded a shelter, the soldiers of the Imperial Guard, who were occupied in cooking, having silently retired from it, on his approach.—Previous to his departure the peasant solicited permission for one of his servants to remain, which favour was immediately granted, and secured his house from the hands of the soldiers, who pillaged every other in the village.

Napoleon, after the battle was lost, when he saw his Guards\* dis-

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\* When the old guard gave way, it was called upon to surrender, to which Lieutenant General Cambrone replied “ La garde meurt,

comfited and in full retreat, followed by the Allies, observed to Marshal Bertrand, "Tout est perdu, il faut nous retirer."—"The day is lost, it is time for us to retire," and immediately fell back on la Belle Alliance. At the farm of Rossomme, he made an attempt to rally his troops, but his efforts were unable to dissipate the panic which had seized them.—Seeing the danger to which he was personally exposed from the near approach of the British and Prussian cavalry, he retired by Genappe, Quatre Bras, Gosselies, and Charleroi, to Marcinelle, where he entered a public house called La Gangeotte, kept by Pierre Diesbeck, and demanded a guide, evincing a strong desire that the Landlord should accompany him. He remained nearly two hours walking in the garden, accompanied by Marshal Bertrand and several General Officers, with whose assistance he once more attempted to rally his troops, but the flying soldiers paid no other attention to him than by crying "Vive l'Empereur!"

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mais elle ne se rend pas." "The Imperial Guard knows how to die, but not to surrender." A few minutes after the brave general was dangerously wounded, and the greater part of the veterans who surrounded him, fell victims to an enthusiastic heroism which every soldier must admire, but all regret.

Finding his efforts ineffectual, and having obtained a guide, he left Marcinelle by a road which leads from the chaussée to the rear of the public house, and proceeded in the direction of Philippeville, and from thence by Post to Paris.

His former guide Jean Batiste de Coster was dismissed at this Village, and received ONE Napoleon, according to his assertion, from Marshal Bertrand, as a recompence for exposing his life during the whole of the preceding day. The farm house of Cailliou, in the rear of the centre of the French Army, as well as the Chateau of Gomont upon the right, and the farm of Papelotte upon the left of the Allied Army, were destroyed by fire.—Some hundreds of wounded men perished in the two former.

(19) This calculation applies solely to the Battle of Waterloo, and their subsequent loss in following up the retreat of the French army. That which they must have sustained from the commencement of hostilities to the disastrous termination of the Battle of Ligny, cannot be estimated at less than twenty-five thousand men, independent of prisoners; and the loss of the French army at Ligny alone, must have been, from its exposed position, at the very least, twenty thousand men.



I regret to say, that my local researches among the historians and topographers of the Low Countries, did not afford the grounds of information, which I anxiously sought after, to enable me to give an aboriginal account of the various places, such as Fleurus, Ligny, Waterloo, &c. rendered memorable from the peculiar circumstances which occurred there, in a war which has proved the most important of the many that have taken place during the last and present centuries.

F I N I S.

## ERRATA.

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### TITLE PAGE.

For *Heav'n* read *God*.

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### TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

PAGE. LINE.

8     9     For *to give publicity*, read *to join in giving publicity*.

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### INDICATIONS.

10    1     Read *Horse* artillery attached.  
19    3     For (m), read (*m*).  
21    5     For la *Huic*, read la *Haye*.  
22    5     For ( j ), read (J).  
23    6     For (M), read ii).  
23 , 11    For (ll), read (M).

# ERRATA.

## PAGE. LINE.

- 31 11 For (rt), read (rt).  
 38 13 For (o), read (o).  
 42 6 For (yy) read (yy).  
 42 17 For *Moyenne Garde*, read *Moyenne Garde*.

## TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION.

- 2&3 18&3 For *Gosselies*, read *Gosselies*.  
 6 3 For *Mortar*, read *Howitzer*.  
 6 5 For *Farm de la Cour*, read *the Farm, &c.*

## BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

- 3&42 15&15 For *O'Hain*, read *Ohain*.  
 5 6 For *Soignes*, read *Soigne*.  
 14 14 For *Tirailleurs*, read *Tirailleurs*.  
 26 16 For (W) read (w).  
 41 9 For *Moyenne Garde*, read *Moyenne Garde*.  
 48 9 For *the Protector*, read *Protector*.  
 48 17 For *obliterated*, read *obliterated*.

## ERRATA.

### NOTES.

PAGE. LINE.

60 2 For approached, read approached *him*.

60 4 For *oppose*, read *withstand*.

67 15 For *Among*, read *Of*.

80 14 The number of the note (17), has been  
omitted.

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